FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-056
Monday
23 March 1992

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-056 CONTENTS *23 March 1992*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

- Ukraine Decision on Withdrawal Still Unclear 1
  - Halt Said 'Still in Force' *[Russian TV]* 1
  - Moscow Press on Kravchuk *[Kiev Radio]* 1
  - Financial Motives Seen *[KURANTY 20 Mar]* 1
- Belarus To Withdraw Weapons Before 1 Jul *[Radio Rossii]* 2
- Moldovan Official: Radioctive Containers Safe *[Moscow Radio]* 2
- Ex-Soviet Officer Reportedly Sold Secrets *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 19 Mar]* 2
- Nuclear Stability Discussed With U.S. *[TASS]* 2
- Probable Outcome of Army 'Division' Considered *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 19 Mar]* 3
- Nuclear Scientists Union Issues Statement *[TASS]* 4
- Sweden To Assist In Decommissioning Reactors *[Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER 17 Mar]* 4
- Institute Admits Former Soviet Republics *[Kiev Radio]* 5
- Institute Hosts Nuclear Research Meeting *[TASS]* 5

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- Officials Deny Bombers Violated U.S. Airspace *[TASS]* 6
- U.S. Navy Said To Keep Close Watch on CIS *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 21 Mar]* 6
- Bush Comments on Kiev Summit Reported *[TASS]* 6
- Former USSR Troops To Leave Mongolia in Jul *[POSTFACTUM]* 7
- Syrian Delegation Begins Visit 23 Mar *[TASS]* 7
- WHO Official on Need for Urgent Medical Aid *[TASS]* 7
- U.S. Food Credits Amounting $250 Million Noted *[Moscow Radio]* 7
- Indian Ties To Curb Pakistan Influence Eyed *[IZVESTIYA 19 Mar]* 8
- Possibility of 'Single Eurasian' Area Viewed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 19 Mar]* 8
- Black Sea Cooperation Zone Examined *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 21 Mar]* 9

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

CIS Summit

- Further on 20 Mar CIS Summit Proceedings 11
  - More on Opening Session *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 21 Mar]* 11
  - Kravchuk: CIS Resolves No Issues *[POSTFACTUM]* 11
  - TV Views Course of Meeting *[Moscow TV]* 11
  - Ukrainian Debt Payment Viewed *[TASS]* 12
  - Some Military Issues Suspended *[TASS]* 12
  - Ukraine, Kazakhstan Sign Protocol *[Moscow Radio]* 12
  - More Military Agreements Signed *[INTERFAX]* 12
  - Broadcasting Union Agreed *[Moscow Radio]* 13
  - Decision on USSR Debt *[TASS]* 13
  - Peace-Keeping Forces Established *[Moscow Radio]* 13
  - Next Summit on 15 May in Tashkent *[INTERFAX]* 14
- Summit Participants Hold News Conference *[Moscow Radio]* 14
  - Further Kravchuk Comments *[Moscow Radio]* 15
  - Yeltsin Cited on Military Budget *[TASS]* 15
  - Nazarbayev on Results *[Moscow Radio]* 15
  - Leaders State View of CIS *[TASS]* 16
  - Ukraine's Military Stance Viewed *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 21 Mar]* 16
  - Ukraine on Black Sea Fleet *[POSTFACTUM]* 17

Moldova Official on Dnestr Conflict *[Radio Rossii]* 17
'Blue Helmets' Formation Agreed *[INTERFAX]* 18
Yeltsin, Burbulis Interviewed *[Russian TV]* 18

Baltics

Baltic Council Issues Statements *[Vilnius Radio]* 18

Military

Desertion by CIS Troops in Georgia Reported *[POSTFACTUM]* 19
Data on Military Losses in Transcaucasia Noted *[POSTFACTUM]* 19
Caucasian Mountain Dwellers To Set Up Army *[INTERFAX]* 20
Statute on Army Contract Service Outlined *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 20 Mar]* 20

Commonwealth

Strikes Continue in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine *[TASS]* 21
Minimum Subsistence, Wage Levels Introduced *[IZVESTIYA 20 Mar]* 21

RUSSIA

International Affairs

Yeltsin, Kohl Discuss Kiev Meeting Over Phone *[TASS]* 22
Yeltsin Transfers Baltic Troops to Federation *[Riga Radio]* 22
Official Comments on Withdrawal From Latvia *[INTERFAX]* 22
Defense Unit Demands Discontinuing Withdrawal *[Riga Radio]* 22
Report on Yeltsin-Kravchuk Conversation Denied *[IZVESTIYA 23 Mar]* 23
Yeltsin, Nazarbayev Hold Talks in Moscow *[TASS]* 23
Yeltsin Criticized for German Autonomy Remarks *[INTERFAX]* 24
Sanctions Against Libya To Affect Ties *[INTERFAX]* 24
Ministry Issues Statement on 'Libyan Question' *[TASS]* 24
Foreign Economic Minister Meets Libyan Official *[Tripoli JANA]* 24
Kozyrev Calls South Korea Visit 'Success' *[IZVESTIYA 21 Mar]* 24
Kozyrev, Japan's Watanabe Discuss Foreign Debt *[TASS]* 25
    More on Debt *[TASS]* 25
    Discuss Arms Reductions *[TASS]* 26
    Kozyrev Holds News Conference *[TASS]* 26
    Miyazawa on Kurils *[Moscow International]* 27
    Kozyrev on Concessions *[TASS]* 27
    Talks on Territory Issue *[TASS]* 27
    Kozyrev Briefs Media *[Moscow TV]* 28
    Ends Visit to Japan *[TASS]* 28
    Kozyrev on Japan Visit *[Moscow Radio]* 28
Kozyrev Interviewed on Ties With Asia *[Moscow TV]* 29
Kozyrev Stops Over in Vladivostock *[Moscow Radio]* 29
    Returns to Moscow *[TASS]* 29
Kozyrev Arrives in Helsinki 23 Mar *[TASS]* 29
Rogachev on Importance of PRC Military Ties *[INTERFAX]* 30
Chechen Recognizes Gamsakhurdia-Led Georgia *[TASS]* 30
Government, Cuba Negotiate Projects Completion *[INTERFAX]* 31
Official on Bombs Thrown at Embassy in Quito *[INTERFAX]* 31

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Decrees Novaya Zemlya Russian Property *[TASS]* 31
Yeltsin Postpones Meeting With Political Leaders *[Moscow Radio]* 31
Yeltsin Addresses Muslims on Spring Holiday *[Moscow TV]* 31
Burbulis Views Current Issues, Policies *[Russian TV]* 32
Burbulis Urges Tatarstan To Sign Treaty *[TASS]* 34

- Burbulis on Need for 'Muscle' in Crime Organs *[TRUD 14 Feb]* 35
- Burbulis Says Reforms 'Necessary Means' *[TASS]* 35
  - Legal Backup for Reform Signed *[INTERFAX]* 35
- Gaydar Hopes To Avoid Wage Freeze *[TASS]* 36
- Consequences of Freed Energy Prices Eyed *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 20 Mar]* 36
- Corruption Conference Examines 'Ailments' *[Moscow TV]* 37
- Stepankov on Combating 'Sophisticated' Crime *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 11 Mar]* 37
- Further on Shakhray's Political Assessment *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 21 Mar]* 38
  - Poltoranin Cited on Statehood *[KURANTY 20 Mar]* 39
- Federation Treaty Signing Delayed Until 31 Mar *[TASS]* 39
- Abdulatipov Stresses Importance of Treaty *[FEDERATSIYA 18-24 Mar]* 39
- Provisions of Federation Treaty Outlined *[FEDERATSIYA 18-24 Mar]* 40
- Kokoshin Views Defense Ministry Structure *[IZVESTIYA 20 Mar]* 42

Media & Journalism

- 'Inevitable' Collapse of 'Empire' Viewed *[KURANTY 20 Mar]* 43
  - Press Center Head Appointed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 20 Mar]* 45
  - KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA Cuts Denied *[IZVESTIYA 19 Mar]* 45
  - New Information Agency Created *[TASS]* 45
  - Radio Begins Airing BBC Live *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 46
  - Polish Paper Appears in Kaliningrad *[Warsaw PAP]* 46

Supreme Soviet

- Autonomous Regions Initial Federation Treaty *[Moscow Radio]* 46
- Filatov on Treaty Delay, Next CIS Meeting *[TASS]* 46
- Proposed Constitutional Amendments Viewed *[POSTFACTUM]* 46
- 'No Plans' for Sanctions Against Tatarstan *[POSTFACTUM]* 47
- Appeal for 'Tolerant' Dialogue in Dnestr Eyed *[TASS]* 47
- Military Industries Conversion Law Adopted *[POSTFACTUM]* 48
- Social Protection of Population Criticized *[TASS]* 48
- Two Newspapers 'Singled Out' for Subsidies *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 19 Mar]* 48
- 'Citizens Society' Faction of Deputies Formed *[Radio Rossii]* 49
- Roundup of Mar 19, 20 Sessions Reported *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 21 Mar]* 49

Regional Affairs

- Runup to Tatarstan Referendum Examined 49
  - Media Pressure Noted *[Russian TV]* 49
  - Deputies Group Criticizes Leadership *[POSTFACTUM]* 50
  - Bulletins Handed Out *[TASS]* 50
  - No 'Serious' Violations Noted *[POSTFACTUM]* 50
  - President Shaymiyev Comments *[Moscow TV]* 51
  - Majority Say 'Yes' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 23 Mar]* 51
- Checheniya Cites Tatarstan's 'Tangible Victory' *[INTERFAX]* 52
- Chinese Border Residents Welcome Cossacks *[Russian TV]* 53
- Cossack Detachment Departs for Dnestr *[TASS]* 53
- Sobchak, Team Draft Alternative Constitution *[KURANTY 21 Mar]* 53
  - Sobchak Describes Process *[Radio Rossii]* 54
- Moscow Chairman Says Treaty To 'Avert Ruin' *[KURANTY 21 Mar]* 54
- Komi Supreme Soviet Approves Federation Treaty *[POSTFACTUM]* 54
- Komi Forms Ministry for Press, Information *[Russian TV]* 55
- Germans Still Aim for Restoration of Volga *[INTERFAX]* 55
- Great Volga Plenary Council Meets *[POSTFACTUM]* 55
- Buryatia Prepares Draft Agreement With Russia *[TASS]* 56

UKRAINE

International Affairs

- President Kravchuk Discusses CIS Meeting *[Moscow TV]* 57
  - Briefs Bush, Mitterrand on Results *[TASS]* 61
- Decree Issued To Promote Foreign Trade *[TASS]* 61
- Don Cossacks Detained Trying To Enter Moldova *[POSTFACTUM]* 61
- 5,500 Dnestr Refugees Arrive in Odessa Region *[Kiev Radio]* 61
- Police Disrupt Russian Army Property Transfer *[INTERFAX]* 61
- Official Says Russia Appropriating Property *[Kiev International]* 62
- Some Ukrainian Cadets To Study in Moscow *[TASS]* 62
- Republic Asks U.S. for Separate Loans *[INTERFAX]* 62
- Plans To Combat Crime With CSFR Noted *[Kiev International]* 62

National Affairs

- Kravchuk Receives Sevastopol Deputies *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 20 Mar]* 62
- Assembly Appeals to Kravchuk To Quit CIS *[Kiev International]* 63
- Crimea Movement Collects 178,000 Signatures *[Kiev International]* 63
  - Criticizes Sevastopol Decree *[INTERFAX]* 63
  - Pro-Ukraine Protesters Picket *[Moscow TV]* 63
  - Referendum Banned in Sevastopol *[Kiev International]* 63
- People's Deputy Criticizes Kravchuk Appointments *[Kiev International]* 63
- Further on Strike in Donetsk Region *[POSTFACTUM]* 63
- Donbass Strikers Stop Talks With Government *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 21 Mar]* 64
  - Strike for 'Purely Economic Demands' *[Moscow TV]* 64
- Cabinet of Ministers Examine Journalists Appeal *[Kiev Radio]* 64
- Antonov Hopes For Common Economic Space *[POSTFACTUM]* 64
- Aid Approved for Population's 'Least Provided' *[Moscow Radio]* 64
- Self-Defense Detachments Formed in Sumy Region *[INTERFAX]* 65
- Vehicles Carrying Military Equipment Impounded *[Russian TV]* 65
- Odessa Oil Refinery Stops Operations *[Kiev Radio]* 65
- Plant Retooled for Tank Destruction *[Kiev International]* 65

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

- Acting Defense Minister on CIS Kiev Meeting *[TASS]* 66
- Parliament Passes Military Service Bill *[TASS]* 66
- Discussions on Creation of Armed Forces Noted *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 20 Mar]* 66
- General Staff's Demands Said 'Unacceptable' *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 21 Mar]* 66
- Government Drops Value Added Tax Rate *[POSTFACTUM]* 67
- Tarazevich Interviewed on Border Demarcation *[INTERFAX]* 67
- Kebich Elected Head of 'Anticrisis Committee' *[IZVESTIYA 19 Mar]* 67
- National Bank Reports Republic To Join EBRD *[INTERFAX]* 68

Moldova

- Resolution on Solving Dnestr Conflict Approved *[Chisinau Radio]* 68
- Ministry on Rostov's 'Connivance' in Conflict *[Chisinau Radio]* 68
- Snegur Ponders Romanian Aid for Dnestr Crisis *[Budapest Radio]* 69
- Army Commander Reiterates Neutrality in Dnestr *[Moscow Radio]* 69
- Units Set Up To Support Cossacks, Mercenaries *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 70
- Decree on Military Jurisdiction Transfer Signed *[TASS]* 70
- General Yakovlev, Other Prisoners Exchanged *[Moscow Radio]* 70
- Snegur Welcomes Declaration on Transdnestr *[TASS]* 70
- Snegur, Romania's Iliescu Hold Talks *[Moscow TV]* 70
  - Iliescu Cited *[Moscow International]* 71
  - Snegur on Talks *[INTERFAX]* 71

'Relative Calm' Reported in Dnestr Region *[INTERFAX]* 71
Shooting Continues in Dnestr Despite Cease-Fire *[TASS]* 71
Tiraspol Calls For General Mobilization *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 71
Gagauz Republic Struggles for Independence *[INTERFAX]* 72

Kazakhstan

President Urges Preserving Joint Armed Forces *[TASS]* 72
U.S. Official Cited on Cooperation Potential *[Moscow TV]* 72
Wind-Powered Electrical Generators Planned *[TASS]* 73

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Azerbaijan Said To Violate Cease-Fire Accord *[INTERFAX]* 74
  Iranian Envoy Witnesses Violation *[Russian TV]* 74
Azerbaijan Said Shifting Fighting to Borders *[Yerevan Radio]* 74
Protest Note 'Demands' Azerbaijan Return Arms *[Yerevan Radio]* 74
Ter-Petrosyan, President Bush Discuss Conflict *[TASS]* 75
CSCE Criticized on Proposal To Ban Arms *[Yerevan Radio]* 75
Nagorno-Karabakh Community Asks Russian Help *[Yerevan Radio]* 75
President Comments on Russia, Nagorno-Karabakh *[Yerevan Radio]* 75
'Emergency' Economic Measures Considered *[TASS]* 77

Azerbaijan

Cease-Fire Agreement on 'Brink of Collapse' *[TASS]* 77
Mamedov, Iranian Official Discuss Mediation *[Baku Radio]* 77
'Guerrillas' Seize CIS Anti-Aircraft Missiles *[TASS]* 78
Armenians Said To Use CIS Military Vehicles *[INTERFAX]* 78
Fighting, Hostage Exchange in Nagorno-Karabakh 78
  'War' in Kazakhskiy Rayon *[Baku Radio]* 78
  Military Hostages Released *[INTERFAX]* 79
  Hostage, POW, Body Exchange *[Moscow Radio]* 79
  Armenian T-72 Tank Destroyed *[Russian TV]* 79
Government Establishes Committee for Defense *[Baku Radio]* 79

Georgia

Gamsakhurdists Free Hostages, Seek New Talks *[INTERFAX]* 79
  Reportedly Plan New Offensive *[Russian TV]* 80
Gamsakhurdia Loyalist Leader Comments on Issues *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 20 Mar]* 80
Situation in Senaki 'Stable'; No Rallies *[Tbilisi Radio]* 81
State Council Approves 10,000-Strong Army *[Tbilisi Radio]* 81
Western Area 'Gradually Starting To Stabilize' *[Tbilisi Radio]* 81
Reportage on Situation in South Ossetia 81
  Agreement Reached on Talks *[Russian TV]* 81
  More Troops Entering *[INTERFAX]* 81
  Region 'Peaceful' 21-22 Mar *[Tbilisi Radio]* 82
IMF Finds Economic Difficulties *[INTERFAX]* 82
Shevardnadze Welcomes Iranian Mediation Efforts *[Moscow Radio]* 82
  Comments on Treaty With Russia *[TASS]* 82
Chairman's Meeting With Intelligentsia Viewed *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 20 Mar]* 82
Cabinet Discusses Ways To Demonopolize Economy *[POSTFACTUM]* 83

Ukraine Decision on Withdrawal Still Unclear

Halt Said 'Still in Force'

LD2003205992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 20 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Ukrainian defense minister has said that despite yesterday's reports, Kravchuk's decision on halting the withdrawal of nuclear missiles from Ukraine is still in force. This is despite the fact that Boris Yeltsin has said that he will insist on the withdrawal and destruction of nuclear weapons in Russia, monitored by Ukraine.

Moscow Press on Kravchuk

LD2003203892 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] As was already reported, on 4 March this year President Leonid Kravchuk announced suspension of the tactical nuclear arms shipments from Ukraine to Russia until firm guarantees are provided that these arms are destroyed there. In other words, the move by Ukraine's president was temporary and forced.

Moscow's response to this move was quite specific. This especially refers to the Moscow-based press which resorted to distortions, accusations and even theft. The newspaper IZVESTIYA, for example, published allegations to the effect that Ukraine is going to become a nuclear state. However, the newspaper ignored the fact that Leonid Kravchuk reiterated Ukraine's intention to get rid of nuclear weapons by 1994 in his speech at [words indistinct].

The statement of the president's press service issued on 17 March, reaffirmed Ukraine's readiness to become a nuclear-free state. They also accuse Ukraine of the fact that it allegedly undermined an agreement among the Commonwealth leaders on the withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons from Ukraine and Belarus by 1 July this year. At this point they forget, however, that the Russian side violated its pledge to destroy these arms under international control.

These days, Chief of the General Staff of the United Armed Forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Col-Gen Viktor Samsonov, told journalists that Russia strictly abides by the obligations (?it took) upon itself. At this point it would be most appropriate for him to mention the number of destroyed charges shifted from Ukraine. However, the general did not do that.

Is there a way out of the situation? Yes, there is. Such a way was mapped out in the statements by President Kravchuk and his press service. These contain a proposal to the government of Russia and the governments of other Commonwealth countries to liberate the mechanism of joint control over the dismantling of these tactical nuclear charges as envisaged by the Minsk and Alma-Ata agreements.

It was also proposed to lay down an agreement on the procedure of transferring nuclear charges to the bases in Russia for their subsequent liquidation. There is yet another way to liquidate nuclear weapons stationed in Ukraine. At present Ukraine has not enough potential to dismantle and destroy nuclear charges, especially in view of the fact that apart from tactical missiles, there are 176 strategic missiles stationed in Ukraine.

Still operating is the Chernobyl nuclear power station whose power units must be shut down and the nuclear waste recycled. This is why Leonid Kravchuk does not exclude the possibility of appealing to the world community with a request to help build a plant in the Chernobyl area for the destruction of nuclear weapons. This is yet another proof of the fact that Ukraine has no nuclear ambitions and sincerely strives to do away with the dangerous weapons.

It is noteworthy that the above explanations were passed on to the U.S. charge d'affaires in Ukraine and were acknowledged quite satisfactorily by the U.S. government. On 20 March the heads of the Commonwealth member states will hold their meeting in Kiev. Quite obviously the question of nuclear arms shift from Ukraine will be discussed there.

Financial Motives Seen

MK2003143792 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 20 Mar 92 p 1

[Mikhail Shchipanov "Forecast" article: "Maneuver Is Over. Will You Forget It"]

[Text] After pausing like a grandmaster, Kiev has disavowed President Kravchuk's loud promise to suspend the transfer of tactical nuclear munitions to Russia. The forceful maneuver, obviously designed to coincide with the opening of the scheduled Commonwealth summit, has ended. Moreover, the end is surprisingly well timed. Any delay in backpedaling might have seriously alarmed our Western partners, who are good at imposing sanctions. As it is, all the interested parties, in order not to inflame passions (it is rather frightening to look into the abyss), have pretended that they were satisfied by the explanations offered by the Ukrainian authorities. But Kravchuk will not succeed in completely "washing his hands" of the unpleasant episode. In the risky game of escalation, the president has only earned points in the race for the not terribly honorable title of "unpredictable politician," a title which people in nearby foreign lands and further afield try mainly to give to Boris Yeltsin. The nuclear maneuvers and the strange obfuscations over the question of the debts which were jointly entered into as members of the Union have left their mark on world consciousness.

In fact there were clearly also other incentives prompting Kravchuk to undertake this risky demarche. For, if you think about it, the rationale whereby Kiev attempted to justify the "pause" in removing the nuclear warheads demonstrated that the Ukrainian authorities had no genuine cause for dispute. The statement regarding a delay in the destruction of the weapons already removed to Russia is essentially naive. At present there is no effective means of destroying nuclear warheads other than underground detonation. Did they want to turn the Poltava region into another Semipalatinsk? In this connection the supposition that in this rather awkward fashion Kiev was making a play for at least a share of the $400 million which the United States has promised Russia for the expensive process of nuclear disarmament must not be dismissed out of hand. Thus, Ukraine has said "yes" to the removal of weapons, but what we hear is "yes, but."

Belarus To Withdraw Weapons Before 1 Jul

LD2103091592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Stanislav Shushkevich, the chairman of the Belarus parliament, has stressed that the republic is consistently moving toward being a nuclear-free, neutral state. We will withdraw all tactical nuclear weapons ahead of schedule, and we will withdraw them, as required by international agreements, before 1 July this year, Stanislav Shushkevich stated.

Moldovan Official: Radioctive Containers Safe

LD2203052292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Colonel Grama, the chief of the Moldovan Civil Defense, refuted reports previously published that two containers with radioactive materials had been stolen from the territory of the former Civil Defense regiment stationed in the village of Kochiyer in the Dubossarskiy rayon and which is now under the control of the republican Interior Ministry forces. Col. Grama told MOLDOVAPRES that these containers had been transported during the night of 20-21 March to the right bank of the river Dnestr. Currently, they are in a special and well-guarded storage site of a military unit. He underlined that the level of radiation is within accepted limits and does not present any danger.

Ex-Soviet Officer Reportedly Sold Secrets

PM1903133992 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Mar 92 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Why We Make Missiles. How Dealer Shmulevich Met With Former Soviet Army Officer and Left Inspired"]

[Text] A former Soviet Army officer has attempted to sell secret documents to an Israeli private detective on a mission to Zurich. This was reported by the Israeli weekly HA'OLAM HAZE.

This incident, if the magazine is to be believed, occurred about two months ago. In Zurich the Israeli private detective Yakov Shmulevich [name as transliterated] was approached by an intermediary who offered to introduce him to an "interesting man." This man turned out to be a former Soviet Army officer who had found unusual goods for a customer. "He said that he had boxes of documents and blueprints of secret weapons which could be of interest to the West," Shmulevich said. "I realized that what was on offer was material smuggled out of the USSR." The "dealer in secrets" priced all the documents at $5,000. According to the weekly, the detective did not know what to do, since he was no expert on military hardware and did not speak Russian—the language of the documents. As a result he agreed to take a few pages as a specimen.

Analysis of the documents showed that they related to an 8,100-kg Soviet cruise missile. "The journalists turned to specialists who concluded that we were talking about really secret information although, clearly, not unique information from the intelligence standpoint." In confirmation of the story the weekly featured a picture of the blueprint, under which the Russian words "Plan of Launcher" can be read.

HA'OLAM HAZE does not say what happened next—whether the "dealer" managed to sell his goods to Israeli intelligence or whether he was left empty-handed. In conclusion the weekly states: "Like other citizens of the former USSR, Soviet officers are coming to the West in search of 'greenbacks.' Consequently, in Antwerp, Geneva, and other European cities you can meet people dealing in military documents. Just 10 years ago the Western secret services would have paid a fortune for such information. But today it can be had at knockdown prices virtually on the streets."

Nuclear Stability Discussed With U.S.

LD2003225792 Moscow TASS in English 1800 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Schevtsov]

[Text] Moscow March 20 TASS—The leading U.S."Rand Corporation" experts, Edward Warner and Arnold Holerik, in an interview to TASS on Friday [20 March], said that in assessing the future role of nuclear armaments in Russian and American military strategies one should proceed from the assumption that Russia should remain a great power and share with the United States the responsibility for the world stability.

The American experts, who took part in the Dartmund Conference on Cooperation and Security, pointed out that nuclear weapons are a corner-stone in the upkeep of the policy of nuclear deterrence of Russia and the United

States. Gradual reduction by both sides of their nuclear arsenals to a reasonable level should become the central element of future nuclear deterrence. It is difficult to say yet what limits of nuclear deterrence might be, according to the experts. The most important question for the United States is whether Russia will be able to find a common language on military issues with its CIS neighbours and countries of Central Europe, said Edward Woerner, the former U.S. military attache to the Soviet Union.

We hope in the West that Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and other CIS states will agree at the current meeting of their presidents to provide at least a real basis which would guarantee their commitments to disarmament treaties of the former Soviet Union. We are concerned over a slow process of ratification by parliaments of agreements on cutting strategic nuclear weapons, Holerik noted.

Probable Outcome of Army 'Division' Considered

PM2003151192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Mar 92 p 1

[Correspondent Lieutenant Colonel A. Dokuchayev article: "If Arms Must Be Divided Up, Let Us Do It In a Civilized Way, Not Forgetting About International Treaties"]

[Text] With regard to the outcome of the Kiev summit of CIS leaders, Western news agencies are predicting that the former Soviet Army's conventional arms will be divided up 20 March. And our editorial office has information to the effect that in Kiev, where decisions will be made to set up separate armed forces, the Ukrainian, Belarussian, Azerbaijani, and Moldovan delegations intend to raise the question of dividing up the USSR's military legacy. The entire world is concerned about the "privatization" of CIS units, combined units, and entire armies. Just what awaits us if the process of division goes along the lines of "whatever I can grab is mine"?

First and foremost, the coming into force of the CFE Treaty, signed by 22 states in Paris 19 November 1990, will be delayed, and for a long time. What about it? The treaty should be ratified by the Commonwealth countries in the European part of the former USSR—Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine. But there are considerable complications in this area. Above all, the levels of armaments and hardware limited under the treaty have not been determined for the Commonwealth states, your correspondent was told at a CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command directorate. Nor has the problem of the joint use of places where conventional arms are to be cut, including the questions of leadership, financing, rights to sell off material assets left over after the hardware cuts, and so on.

And it can be said that the domestic problem will be to the fore. It will be necessary to set quotas, in a civilized way and taking account of international experience, on the armaments and hardware limited by the treaty for each individual Commonwealth state. Nothing, it seems, could be simpler: Just set the quotas. But that, as the saying goes, is where the problems start. "The main reason why this question has not been settled," Lieutenant General Viktor Samoylov, chief of the Russian State Counselor for Defense Service Military Organizational Development Department, notes in the February issue of VESTNIK VOYENNOY INFORMATSII published by the RIA-NOVOSTI and INTERVOYENINFORM agencies, "is that no principle for determining what constitutes adequate arms for each individual country has been worked out between these (Commonwealth—A.D.) states."

It should be noted that approaches toward defining these principles have not only been worked out but have even been verified by international experience. It is another matter that certain Commonwealth states do not want to recognize it. Just what is this experience?

In implementing the treaty it was necessary to distribute arms fairly and sensibly among the countries of the Warsaw bloc. Thus, this question was settled with the help of a "generalized indicator" calculated taking account of the states' area, population, and the length of their borders. Understandably, this "generalized indicator" could also be used in redistributing conventional arms among the CIS countries. It would break down as follows: 4.3 percent for Azerbaijan, 2.8 for Armenia, 6.6 for Belarus, 3.8 for Georgia, 4.3 for Kazakhstan, 2.3 for Moldova, 54.1 for Russia, and 21.8 for Ukraine. Conventional armaments should be distributed on the basis of these objective figures.

Azerbaijan could claim 565 tanks, 860 armored fighting vehicles, and 567 artillery pieces [yedinitsa artillerii]; Belarus would correspondingly receive 868 tanks, 1,320 armored vehicles, and 870 artillery systems [artsistema]; Moldova would receive 303 tanks, 460 armored vehicles, and 303 artillery systems; Ukraine would receive 2,867 tanks, 4,360 armored vehicles, and 2,872 artillery systems; and Russia would receive 7,114 tanks, 10,820 armored vehicles, and 7,128 artillery systems. The remaining hardware—the 13,150 tanks, 20,000 armored vehicles, and 13,175 artillery systems which the former USSR was allowed to retain in the European part of the country—should go to Armenia, Georgia, and Kazakhstan.

Everything would seem to be sensible and logical. But this is not the case. The proposals from Ukraine, Belarus, and Armenia are based on entirely different principles. Thus, Ukraine wants to get 4,800 tanks, 5,000 armored vehicles, 5,000 artillery pieces, 1,100 combat aircraft, and 500 strike helicopters, thereby transforming itself into one of the best-armed countries in Europe. Belarus wants 2,000 tanks, 2,500 armored vehicles, 1,700 artillery systems, 320 combat aircraft, and 130 strike helicopters. The corresponding proposals from Armenia would mean a distribution of armaments in the Transcaucasian republic's favor that would be totally without foundation from the standpoint of common sense.

It should be noted that for some reason a veil of silence is being drawn over the 14 June 1991 statement by the USSR Government on restricting the number of coastal defense and marine armaments, and the statement by a USSR spokesmen on additional unilateral commitments regarding the armaments transferred beyond the Urals before the treaty was signed. After all, how might things turn out? First, armaments quotas would be set for each Commonwealth state, and then Russia would unilaterally have to cut its combat hardware by another several thousand units.

That is the picture. Certain states are striving not to honor international obligations but to acquire more arms. Let us hope that common sense will prevail in Kiev. And if the question is raised of dividing up conventional arms, as the Western press has been saying, then the states' leaders should turn to international experience and not just to the proposals made by groups of experts who sometimes do not want to heed the world disarmament process.

The CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command believes that things will not go as far as a division of armaments in Kiev. On 20 March 10 documents regulating questions of the life and activity of the Commonwealth Joint Armed Forces will be submitted to the meeting in the Ukrainian capital, Lieutenant General Leonid Ivashov, chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Directorate of Affairs, stated in an interview with an ITAR-TASS observer. Three of these documents are of fundamental importance, in his opinion. The powers of the top Commonwealth organs on defense matters and the High Command's sphere of competence will be defined, and the principles behind the staffing of the CIS Joint Armed Forces and military service in them will be elaborated.

Nuclear Scientists Union Issues Statement

LD2103142992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0300 GMT 21 Mar 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Many scientists in Russia, particularly those who developed nuclear weapons, are in a disastrous situation and are being forced to look for additional sources of income. This is reported in a statement from the Union of Developers of Nuclear Warheads (DNW), the headquarters of which is located in the town of Arzamas-16 (Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast). The DNW Union, set up a month ago, brings together nuclear scientists from the two Russian federal nuclear centers—the VNNIEF (Arzamas- 16) and VNIITF (Chelyabinsk-70) [expansions unknown].

The document, signed by Boris Murashkin and Valeriy Moskalenko, the managers of these associations, states that in the situation that has arisen the Union "is forced to look for additional sources of income and is accepting proposals for scientific-technical projects and long-term cooperation on nonmilitary problems, from both state organizations and private entrepreneurs, including foreign ones".

As specialists, the statement says, we understand how dangerous the proliferation of nuclear weapons technology is. Reducing to a minimum the incentives for scientists to take part in activities leading to the spread of nuclear weapons is a guarantee against this happening. Taking into account the scientists' disastrous situation, there are more than enough such incentives now.

In connection with the fact that "persons who have nothing to do with the profession of developing nuclear warheads have been speaking on their behalf of late," only the DNW Union is the plenipotentiary for the developers of nuclear warheads, the statement stresses.

Sweden To Assist In Decommissioning Reactors

PM1803150092 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 17 Mar 92 p A13

[Gosta Karlsson report: "Sweden To Decommission Estonian Reactors"]

[Text] Swedish radiation protection experts will help Estonia in the decommissioning of two military nuclear reactors in the town of Paldiski, west of Tallinn. The reactors have been used in the training of personnel for the former Soviet Union's nuclear-powered submarine fleet.

The Russian military has announced that it will take responsibility for the dismantling of the reactors and also deal with the radioactive waste that has been stored at the Paldiski installation over the years. But the Estonian authorities want to check on the dismantling of the reactors, and because of their own lack of equipment and radiation protection expertise they have turned to Sweden's Radiation Protection Institute (SSI) with a request for assistance, in reviewing the Russians' decommissioning plans, for example.

"It is completely natural for the Estonians to want to check on the dismantling of the reactors and to make sure that the waste is handled correctly. After all, they are the ones who will have to take over the area and they want a picture of the radiation environment in the area," Jan Olof Snihs, SSI's acting director general, told DAGENS NYHETER.

Paldiski is on the coast, approximately 50 km southwest of Tallinn. The two Soviet submarine reactors that are now to be dismantled each have a capacity of 25 megawatts. (By way of comparison, the smallest of Sweden's 12 nuclear reactors, Oskarshamn 1, has a capacity of 440 megawatts.)

Estonia has no nuclear power of its own, but is anxious to make contingency plans in case of future reactor accidents in neighboring countries. In talks with the

Estonians the SSI has agreed to provide the instruments needed to measure various types of radiation in the earth and in the air.

A "contingency package" currently under discussion between the SSI and the Estonians includes a bilateral agreement on so-called early warning of increased radiation which could be an indication that somewhere a reactor accident has occurred. The agreement means that the countries would immediately inform each other when radiation levels which deviate from the norm are registered.

Institute Admits Former Soviet Republics

AU2003123392 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 1439 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Yesterday [18 March], a conference of the committee of plenipotentiary representatives of governments and states that are members of the Joint Institute for Nuclear Research completed its work in Dubna. Plenipotentiary representatives of the governments of Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, Korea, Cuba, Mongolia, Romania, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and also of Ukraine, Belarus, and the Russian Federation took part in the conference. These last were admitted to the Joint Institute at the end of the last year. Representatives of Germany and China were present at the conference as observers. The committee admitted new members to the Joint Institute: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Moldova.

Institute Hosts Nuclear Research Meeting

LD1903232192 Moscow TASS in English 1910 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Dubna March 18 TASS—Nuclear researchers from Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, North Korea, Cuba, Mongolia, Romania, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Belarus, Russia and Ukraine—members of the United Institute of Nuclear Research in Dubna, near Moscow, discussed on Wednesday [18 March] the draft of the new charter of the institute which will provide better prospects for international cooperation in science and technology.

Representatives of Germany and China participated at the meeting as observers, while Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Moldova became new members of the institute.

Officials Deny Bombers Violated U.S. Airspace

LD2303144292 Moscow TASS in English
1345 GMT 23 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiski]

[Text] Moscow, March 23 TASS—"The flight of CIS distant aviation planes did not involve any violations of the U.S. air space. This conclusion is confirmed by objective control data", officials of the press centre of the CIS Joint Armed Forces told ITAR-TASS today.

"On March 20", they said, "two CIS distant aviation missile-carrying TU-95 aircraft were on a regular flight over neutral waters along the Aleut islands range."

"Their crews saw two F-15 fighters trying to intercept them at 50 degrees northern latitude and 174 degrees 30 minutes western longitude. This happened at 5 hours 53 minutes Moscow time. The U.S. planes took off from the Elmendorf base in Alaska. They shadowed our aircraft for 21 minutes. No signals, envisaged by international regulations, were given by U.S. Fliers".

U.S. Navy Said To Keep Close Watch on CIS

PM2203202992 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Mar 92 p 5

[Captain Third Rank V. Maryukha report: "By the Way"]

[Text] Since 1982 U.S. ships and submarines were encountered increasingly often near our (then still Union) borders. This was the practical implementation of the ocean strategy of "maritime forward positions."

Judging by the statement by U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, his department has no intention of abandoning such practice—locking the now-CIS Navy up inside its bases. Despite the fact that in the last five years our naval fleet has reduced the number of submarines on stand-by alert at sea by a factor of three and has completely removed them from the U.S. coast, the Americans maintain 18-20 strike and multirole nuclear submarines off our shores. The settlement of disputes about whether the collision occurred in Russian territorial waters or whether these are neutral waters, as the Americans claim, can be left to the politicians. But it should not be forgotten here that less than 50 km separated the Baton Rouge from where it lay "in ambush" and our shore. While the range of a Tomahawk tactical missile is 2,500 km, to say nothing about the 23 submarines equipped with Poseidon and Trident ballistic missiles, in whose homing heads the coordinates for targets on the territory of the former Union remain the same as before.

"The U.S. Navy's actions off our shores have undergone no change whatsoever," Rear Admiral Valeriy Aleksin, chief navigation officer of the Navy, said when commenting on the incident in the Barents Sea. "Moreover, ships and intelligence vessels of fleets belonging to America's allies are constantly to be found off our maritime borders at the same time as them working in the common interests of NATO, and all departures by our ships either singly or as part of large units are monitored."

This list could be extended. Captain First Rank V. Fedorov, in charge of measures to maintain military secrets at the Main Naval Staff, recently told me that even after reducing by more than one-third the number of areas closed to foreigners, we have still not satisfied the curiosity of the Americans—they have persisted in pushing through via straw men the creation of joint ventures in places covered by the trajectory of missiles launched from our test sites...

Bush Comments on Kiev Summit Reported

LD2103223792 Moscow TASS in English
2208 GMT 21 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Stanislav Lunev]

[Text] Washington, March 22 TASS—U.S. President George Bush described the results of the CIS summit in Kiev as very interesting and positive. Bush had a short meeting with journalists in his residence in Camp David, Maryland, on the eve of his meeting with German Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who arrived in the U.S. on Friday [20 March]. He told journalists that he had conversations with the Ukrainian and Armenian Presidents on Saturday [21 March] morning. They informed him of the results of the Kiev Summit and asked to pass over this information to Kohl.

According to Bush, he did not discuss additional aid to the CIS member states during his conversations with the Ukrainian and Armenian leaders. He said they had discussed the Nagorno-Karabakh problem and the problem of nuclear armaments. This is why, he continued, during his talks with Chancellor Kohl they will have a lot to discuss concerning the new Commonwealth. According to the Washington press, at the meeting of the American and German leaders, held on the initiative of the U.S. President, they are discussing a wide range of bilateral problems and international problems of mutual interest, including the situation in the Commonwealth, the Uruguay round of talks within the framework of GATT, the situation in Eastern and central Europe and in the Middle East, as well as Western policy with regard to Iraq. However, newspapers stress, the situation in the CIS member states will be the centrepiece of the talks.

Germany accounts for a considerable part of international aid received by the CIS member states. Bush and Kohl will probably touch upon the problem of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the Western strategy in supporting new East European democracies, the U.S. press reports. The U.S., the same as other leading industrially developed Western states, believes that the admittance of Russia to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) should be the next step in promoting the implementation of the reform in that country. In this connection newspapers quote a member of the U.S.

Administration as saying he hopes other member states of the Commonwealth will also be admitted to that international financial institution, and the problem of Russia's full membership in the IMF will be resolved at an IMF session, planned to be held in Washington late in April, this year.

Former USSR Troops To Leave Mongolia in Jul

LD2103172892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1339 GMT 21 Mar 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Chita—The last unit of ex-USSR troops will be withdrawn from Mongolia in July 1992. On March 20 representatives of the Zabaykalskiy Military District Headquarters told PF [POSTFACTUM] correspondent that before 1st January 1992 Mongolia received 145 military settlements, including 4,158 buildings and facilities, in particular, 301 resident blocks, 106 dormitories, 477 barracks, 100 dinner halls, 59 medical facilities and 97 boiler units on a total of r [rubles] 451.6 mln, including supply networks, equipment and furniture.

According to the 1992 schedule 36 military settlements are to be abandoned with 885 buildings and facilities on a total of r117.4 mln. The military believe that there is a problem on the procedure of property transfer to Mongolia, namely whether Mongolia receives it free of charge or the property will be run by joint companies. The final decision has not been made.

According to PF information, some of the mixed ownership enterprises, in particular Taiwan-Mongolia joint ventures, are ready to pay a lot of money for military settlements. At present there are many offers of this kind, however the power of decision-making does not belong to commanders of the Zabaykalskiy Military District's Mongolian group or headquarters of the Zabaykalskiy Military District. The final decision is to be made by the Russian Government.

Syrian Delegation Begins Visit 23 Mar

LD2203232692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2258 GMT 22 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Subbotin]

[Text] Damascus, 23 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—A representative Syrian delegation headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today begins its visit to a number of CIS states. This was reported to a ITAR-TASS correspondent by a hign-ranking representative of the Syrian foreign ministry. The delegation intends to visit CIS Central Asian countries, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Ukraine.

The main aim of the visit is to establish diplomatic relations with the former Soviet republics and to develop the basic principles of cooperation with them in various areas in the spirit of traditional friendship which existed between Syria and the Soviet Union. This visit was originally scheduled for the end of last week but was postponed because Faruq al-Shar' had to take part in the meeting of the Arab League ministers of foreign affairs in Cairo.

WHO Official on Need for Urgent Medical Aid

LD2103175392 Moscow TASS in English 1546 GMT 21 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Dodonov]

[Text] Helsinki, March 21 TASS—"CIS member states need urgent humanitarian aid in order to prevent the death of people because of the absence of medication and medical aid," Juhana Idaenpaeaen-Heikkilae, a Finnish physician and representative of the World Health Organisation (WHO), said in an interview with the HELSINGIN SANOMAT newspaper. He visited some areas of the new Commonwealth together with a group of specialists in order to study the state of the public health service in provinces and determine the volume of humanitarian aid needed in this sphere.

According to Idaenpaeaen-Heikkilae, a shortage of the simplest medicinal preparations and equipment is felt everywhere, which results in the death of both children and adults. There is no insulin, or its reserves are close to an end, there are neither syringes, nor needles. A shortage of anaesthetic preparations is appalling, which makes next to impossible even the vitally necessary surgical operations. Antibiotics for children are needed urgently, he added.

The situation in Russia is a little better, but in Moldova, Belarus, the Caucasian and Central Asian states all medical resources have been depleted, the WHO representative pointed out. He said that the WHO intended to create a humanitarian aid centre, because the defects revealed during the trip reduce its effectiveness considerably. These defects include the absence of explanation documents in Russia and the sending of outdated medicine or the medicine in open packing, which makes it impossible to be used, the Finnish physician said.

U.S. Food Credits Amounting $250 Million Noted

LD2203183292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1030 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] The United States has announced the granting of credits to the new independent states of the former Soviet Union amounting to $250 million for purchases of foodstuffs. This was reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Thus, on 20 March the total sum of credits guaranteed by the U.S. Government to the Commonwealth, excluding the Baltic states and Ukraine, amounted to $1.25 billion since 2 December, when the administration announced a package of food aid to the CIS.

Indian Ties To Curb Pakistan Influence Eyed

PM2003162592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Nikolay Paklin report: "Kyrgyzstan Is an Ally Rather Than a Trading Partner, Indian Diplomatic Circles Think"]

[Text] Delhi—Kyrgyz President A. Akayev arrived in Delhi on a state visit early on Tuesday [17 March] morning. Kazakh President N. Nazarbayev had visited the Indian capital previously.

Political circles view the visits by the leaders of the Central Asian states—the former Soviet republics—primarily in the light of their rivalry with neighboring Pakistan for influence in the vast Central Asian region. India is afraid that a vast federation of Central Asian states will be set up under the auspices of Islamic Pakistan, with the possibility of Afghanistan's joining it. The Pakistani proposal to set up a kind of Muslim "common market" as a basis for political and military cooperation serves this purpose. Secular India's aim is to prevent Islamic fundamentalism, which it sees as its sworn enemy, gaining a foothold in the Central Asian states.

During A. Akayev's three-day visit, India and Kyrgyzstan will sign agreements on establishing consular and diplomatic relations, as happened with Kazakhstan. However India will confine itself to opening an embassy in Alma-Ata alone. The Indian ambassador appointed there will be accredited at the same time to the Kyrgyz capital, Bishkek. While Kyrgyzstan, like Kazakhstan, intends to confine itself to sending one of its representatives to the Russian Embassy in Delhi. It emerged that the cost of these republics maintaining separate embassies would be a grave burden on their budgets. "Friendly relations with Kyrgyzstan, as with other sovereign states in the Commonwealth, are important to India during UN voting," a prominent Indian diplomat told your correspondent on the eve of the visit.

Everything indicates that Kyrgyzstan's hopes of establishing wide-ranging economic relations with India are not materializing. The Kyrgyz president's advance group headed by A. Sarygulov, chairman of the republic's State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, brought to Delhi an obviously inflated list of goods that Kyrgyzstan would like to procure in India. India does not have some of these goods at its disposal at all. But the most important point is that the draft Kyrgyz trade agreement with India was unbalanced: Kyrgyzstan intended to procure more goods in India than it sold. The Indian side rejected trade on credit, so to speak, from the outset. It showed no interest in importing goods from Kyrgyzstan.

India's next guest will be Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk. Meanwhile, Russian Vice Premier G. Burbulis' visit has been postponed.

Possibility of 'Single Eurasian' Area Viewed

PM2003154592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Mar 92 First Edition p 7

[Article by Academician Oleg Bogomolov, director of the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of International Economic and Political Studies, under the "Authority" rubric: "New Chance for East Europe"—first paragraph is ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA introduction]

[Text] "For a Regional Market of East European and Asian Countries. Rebirth-92"—this will be the title of an international congress which the Russian Union of Entrepreneurs and Leaseholders and the Foreign Policy Association will hold in Moscow next week. On the eve of the congress we give the floor to Academician Oleg Bogomolov, member of the organizing committee and director of the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of International Economic and Political Studies.

Unlike in the former USSR, decisive preconditions were quickly created in Central and East Europe for the replacement of the totalitarian system by a democratic rule-of-law system. But the transition to market mechanisms was attended by great social problems for the countries of East Europe.

The erroneous decision to switch transactions in economic relations with what was then still the Soviet Union to hard currency contributed equally as much to the deterioration of their economic position. Given the paucity of currency reserves, this resulted in the complete disorganization of trade with our former partners in CEMA. The countries of East Europe began to seek the way out of this desperate situation by selling their goods and agricultural produce on West European markets and by securing the status of, if not full, then at the very least associate members of the EC.

The desire of the countries of East Europe for a trade and economic reorientation to the West European market reflected not only their dissatisfaction with ties with the inefficient and technically backward Soviet economy. It also concealed their fear of the restoration of an ideologized policy of expansion and force in the Soviet Union. This fear increased particularly in connection with the growing danger of a conservative coup d'etat in the Soviet Union at the end of 1990 and the first half of 1991. Increasingly frequently the countries of East Europe began to turn their gaze toward NATO, seeking to find there protection in case of possible complications of the situation in the USSR.

The NATO leadership took an extremely cautious stand on this question, not wishing to infringe the Soviet Union's interests and to provoke its conservative forces. Nevertheless, the West began to promote economic stabilization in the countries of East Europe and their transition to a market economy more resolutely. The original practice of granting credits to these countries to encourage their trade with the EC very quickly revealed its inefficiency. The liberalization of the EC market for

East European countries was deemed an effective means. The recent granting of EC associate membership to the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Poland, and Hungary is the logical continuation of this line.

Nevertheless, the West European market cannot at present compensate the East European countries, with their poor product quality and weak production innovation, for the loss of the former Soviet market. The euphoria of the trade and economic reorientation to the West, which reigned in East European countries during 1990-1991, has now given way to a sobering up and an understanding of the need to restore the ties that were destroyed.

The NATO and EC leadership takes a favorable attitude to the development of this trend, realizing that the restoration of trade and economic ties among the former CEMA partners will help to stabilize the economies and the sociopolitical situation in the countries of East Europe and in the republics of the former Soviet Union. EC experts have come out in favor of large-scale actions by the West to provide credit for the resumption of trade between East European countries and their traditional partners in the east of Europe.

The formation of the CIS is creating new opportunities for the restoration and development of trade, economic, and cooperation ties between the republics of the Commonwealth on the one hand and the countries of Central and East Europe on the other. The main partners for the latter in the East will be Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus and, outside the Commonwealth—Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

At present there is little reason to speak of the strength of the new interstate formation within the former USSR. The legacy of the past—of the administrative system—is still great, and the palette of the political regimes which are uniting is too variegated. The experience of CEMA serves as a warning in this respect. The lack of a market economy in the countries of the former CEMA and the administrative diktat from above that prevailed in their economies did not make it possible to achieve genuine integration within the framework of that international economic organization and brought it to bankruptcy.

Now, with the emergence of the CIS, a unique international situation is developing on the European continent. For the first time since October 1917 all European countries have based their activity on common political, economic, and humanitarian values and the principles of a civil society. This means that a most important precondition is being created for a single Eurasian political, economic, and legal area from Lisbon to Vladivostok. But the realization of this precondition will take an entire historical period, maybe one full of crises, conflicts, ethnic clashes, and contradictions.

Their prevention, localization, and elimination depend on how firmly and consistently the political leaders of the Commonwealth states abide by the basic principles: a) self-determination of nations and peoples; b) territorial integrity and inviolability of borders; c) observance of the rights of national minorities; d) nondetriment to each other; e) people's freedom of movement across internal borders; f) preservation of a single economic area.

The Yugoslav experience attests to the tragic consequences that can result from the failure to observe these principles. A great future awaits the Commonwealth countries if they succeed in freeing themselves from the vestiges and legacy of totalitarianism and building a really democratic civil society.

Black Sea Cooperation Zone Examined

PM2303162392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Mar 92 First Edition p 6

[Article by A. Yazkova and N. Ushakova, associates of the Russian Academy of Sciences World Economy and International Relations Institute: "Black Sea Initiative: To the Mediterranean Via Kuban"]

[Text] The idea of creating in the Black Sea area a zone of active economic cooperation and a region of peace and good-neighborliness emerged in the course of Turkey's search for stronger positions in Europe. The implementation of Turkish President Ozal's "Black Sea Initiative" presupposes the organization of large-scale trade and economic interaction among the states of this region, the creation of conditions for the free movement of people and capital and the development of tariff-free trade, and intergovernmental cooperation in implementing an ecological program to save the Black Sea.

The leaders of the foreign policy departments of Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Romania, and Ukraine initialed a Black Sea Economic Cooperation Declaration in Istanbul recently. It is soon to be ratified by the participating countries' parliaments. Striving to make the best use of the available potential for cooperation, the parties adopted a decision to map out concrete projects of mutual interest in the fields of industry, agriculture, tourism, and science and technology. Special emphasis was placed on proposals to improve the ecological situation in the Black Sea area. The chosen areas of cooperation are pretty realistic, and the breadth of the spectrum they cover enables each of the participants to select what it regards as the most advantage sphere to apply its efforts. The assumption is that the necessary credit and financial resources will be ensured both by mobilizing the participating states' resources and also by enlisting funds from international organizations and third countries. In this connection the possibilities of founding a Black Sea foreign trade and investment bank (possibly with Japanese participation) are being studied. The participating countries regard cooperation within the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Zone as a contribution to the CSCE process and the creation of a Europe-wide economic area and as a way to deepen integration into the world economy.

The fact that the declaration is open for other interested countries recognizing this document's provisions to accede to it as founders is of exceptional importance for the stabilization of the situation in the region.

Turkey is indisputably becoming the engine of regional integration in the Black Sea area. Turkey would be able to steadily build up its export potential in a Black Sea zone, which is extremely necessary for it in the current conditions of rapid economic development (suffice it to say that the average annual increase in Turkish GNP during the eighties totaled around 10 percent, while its foreign trade turnover increased 650 percent, with industrial goods accounting for 80 percent of exports).

In these conditions initiative on the part of individual oblasts, krays, rayons, big cities, and Russian entrepreneurial structures in the Black Sea region is becoming increasingly substantial and necessary. The front-runner in such cooperation can and should be Krasnodar Kray, essentially the only outlet to Europe via the Black Sea; its rich natural resources, the presence of ice-free Black Sea ports, the agroindustrial orientation of the economy, and its advantageous geographical position assure it a promising role as a food-producing, exporting, and recreational center for Russia, and one, moreover, with rich entrepreneurial traditions.

In view of the formation of new independent Black Sea states—Ukraine and Georgia—it would be beneficial for them to conclude an agreement on the joint utilization of the Black Sea Fleet and ports. And, of course, it is important to pool efforts and create an association of Black Sea countries' parliamentarians, which would promote the strengthening of ties between the region's partners and its transformation into a zone of goodneighborliness and cooperation.

CIS Summit

Further on 20 Mar CIS Summit Proceedings

More on Opening Session

MK2103092192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Mar 92 p 1

[Vera Kuznetsova report under the "CIS" rubric and the general heading: "Can the Heads of State Make Effective Decisions? Leonid Kravchuk Asked This Question Yesterday at the Meeting of the Leaders of CIS Countries"]

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk opened the morning session of the Council of CIS Heads of State.

He said that the present meeting in Kiev is being held at a difficult time when a trend toward a deterioration in mutual understanding between CIS countries has clearly become evident.

The president stressed that the heads of state were unable to prevent war on Azerbaijan's territory or stop the bloodshed in the Dnestr region.

Leonid Kravchuk said: "It has proved impossible within the CIS framework and by means of the CIS to resolve a single major military-political issue. Whereas two months ago we were saying that a small child had been born, now the people are asking us what we can do via the CIS."

President Kravchuk insisted that the Kiev meeting must be a turning point, and the heads of state will have to answer the question: Are they or are they not able to make effective decisions?

Uzbek President Islam Karimov was elected to chair the Council of Heads of State.

The former members of the USSR are only worried about property—nuclear, uranium, archive, and foreign property... Apropos the Ukrainian initiative—to divide everything up in one go—Boris Yeltsin noted that as far as property abroad is concerned, he is prepared to go along with this. What about the rest? The Russian president proposed calculating the contribution made by each republic starting from 1917, and reminded people that in 1992 alone Ukraine's debt to Russia amounted to several billion rubles.

At Yeltsin's request, a decision was made that CIS experts will formulate several drafts on these issues. The Russian president believes that all these questions are so complex that they need to be discussed separately and in detail.

But even after this Leonid Kravchuk did not change his position. He insisted that after the recess the heads of state return to the draft agreement on legal succession with regard to all property of the former USSR. Moreover, Ukraine has not changed its position on the Black Sea fleet, namely that Ukraine should be given 90 percent of the fleet. Consequently the agreement on the list of military formations to be included in the strategic forces was removed from the agenda. Experts are saying that henceforth this question can only be resolved on a bilateral basis...

Leonid Kravchuk stated that Ukraine, Belarus, and Uzbekistan decided long ago to destroy the nuclear weapons in their possession. But, Kravchuk stressed, all three nuclear republics must be full participants in the resolution of problems connected with nuclear policy. At the same time Kravchuk noted the planned pressure being exerted on the republic and the interference by certain states in Ukraine's internal affairs. Asked to say who specifically is doing this, the Ukrainian president answered that the Russian parliament, for example, is discussing the Crimean question, yet this is a sovereign matter for Ukraine. The Ukrainian president explained that the patience not just of the Ukrainian people might wear thin in the light of this policy.

Russia decided not to sign the convention on the nonuse of force in the version proposed by Ukraine.

Kravchuk: CIS Resolves No Issues

LD2003172492 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1348 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Kiev—Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk: I have an impression that the CIS is a cover under which everybody is trying to solve his own problems. Not a single military, political or economic issue has been resolved within the framework of the CIS, said Leonid Kravchuk speaking at a meeting of the heads of the CIS states on March 20 in Kiev. The meeting is held at the extremely hard times. A conflict in Azerbaijan has resulted in a real war, the situation in the Transdnestr region has deteriorated. Economic developments have worsened in the CIS countries, which are not on the verge of catastrophe but sliding into it. The spring field works are in danger. I wish my speech were optimistic but there are no reasons for that, Leonid Kravchuk stressed. The meeting is chaired by Islam Karimov, the president of Uzbekistan. Participants in the meeting, held in the building of the former city committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine, were met by approximately 3,000 people who carried posters: Split from the CIS, with the last welcome, Mr. Kravchuk, we voted for sovereign Ukraine, and Boris Yeltsin, thanks for sovereign Ukraine and welcome.

TV Views Course of Meeting

LD2003164892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 20 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Ukraine will disarm on its own territory, President Kravchuk stated today, meaning nuclear weapons situated on the republican territory. By this he defined the level of trust between the CIS countries. It is better to keep nuclear waste in one's own home, than to give it to an unreliable neighbor. And it is rather difficult to describe neighborly relations within the Commonwealth as very warm. The Armenian delegation even tried to raise the issue of the legality of the presence of their Azerbaijani colleagues' at the conference because Baku has not yet ratified its CIS membership. The conflict did not take place. Azerbajanis remained in the hall, and in return for this, participants in the meeting agreed to discuss the Nagorno-Karabakh topic at the end of the day.

An agreement on the legal succession of all property, treaties, and debts of the former USSR has become the main stumbling block. Boris Yeltsin insisted categorically that this topic should be removed, because the method of sharing inheritance does not exist as yet. But after Kravchuk's suggestion, this issue was partitioned and examined point by point. True enough, even this did not help them come to an agreement. They did not reach any agreements on this matter.

Ukrainian Debt Payment Viewed

LD2003172892 Moscow TASS in English 1713 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By UKRINFORM-TASS special correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Kiev March 20 TASS—A statement of Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin on the Ukrainian stand on payment of the foreign debt of the former Soviet Union has been circulated here within the framework of the current meeting of the Council of CIS States' Heads.

The document was provoked by "distortions in CIS and Western mass media of the Ukrainian stand as regards payment of the foreign debt of the former Soviet Union".

It says in particular that Ukraine and Russia have reached mutual understanding as regards the foreign debt and signed an agreement on March 11 in Moscow under which both states will be co-chairmen in the Inter-State Council on servicing the foreign debt of the former Soviet Union.

Vneshekonombank, preserving the right of the competent bank, acquires an international character and will provide for complete openness of operations to the Inter-State Council and, thus, all the CIS republics.

Vneshekonombank will have a special department independent from specific states and responsible for servicing the foreign debt alone. It will have clearly established powers.

The division of votes in the Inter-State Council will be based on corresponding share of the sides in debt servicing. The decisions will be taken by 80 per cent of votes of representatives attending the meeting.

Under the agreement, Ukraine has agreed to sign a memorandum on solidary responsibility for debt payment.

Some Military Issues Suspended

LD2003160892 Moscow TASS in English 1509 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Viktor Demidenko]

[Text] Kiev March 20 TASS—Military problems connected with the powers of the supreme defence bodies of the Commonwealth, with the main command of the united CIS Armed Forces, as well as legal grounds for the activities of the Armed Forces and the principles of recruiting were solved on Friday [20 March] at a meeting of CIS heads of state here.

It is expected that an agreement on the principles of providing armaments, military harware and the organisation of military research for the Armed Forces will be signed later in the day.

However, it has been decided to suspend the discussion of an agreement on law enforcement bodies of the Commonwealth and on the CIS airspace as they were not well prepared and return to the issues at the next meeting in Tashkent.

A protocol approving the list of military units and installations to be included into the CIS strategic forces was removed from the agenda as it had not been agreed upon in advance with Kazakh and Belarussian delegations.

After heated discussions of a draft agreement on protection of external borders and economic sea zones of the Commonwealth the CIS heads of state replaced the word "external" by "state" borders. The document is now officially called "Agreement on Protection of State Borders and Economic Sea Zones of the Commonwealth".

Ukraine, Kazakhstan Sign Protocol

LD2003234692 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1600 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] In Kiev, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev have signed a protocol on an exchange of official documents on the ratification of the interstate treaty between the Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

More Military Agreements Signed

OW2003183092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1610 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At the meeting of the heads of Commonwealth States in Kiev more agreements were reached. The leaders of Commonwealth States added 4 more documents to the 6 agreed upon early Friday [20 March] on military issues. They include the Agreement on supplying the United Armed Forces with arms, technology, and organizing a scientific-research and design department proposed by Ukraine; the Agreement on guarding the Commonwealth's borders and naval economic zone, proposed by Moldova; the Decision on United Command of border forces and the Agreement on the Status of CIS border forces. All the documents are expected to be signed later on Friday.

A protocol establishing diplomatic relations between the Russian Federation and Kyrgyzstan was signed in Kiev Friday.

Broadcasting Union Agreed

LD2103094192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Nine agreements on issues of military construction were signed at the Kiev meeting.

Apart from this, the setting up of a single information area within the CIS framework was examined. An accord in principle was reached on using ITAR-TASS and the Ostankino Television Company to provide this area's requirements. A detailed examination of this issue, including the problem of financial security, may take place at [a meeting] of the heads of government of the CIS member states.

According to RIA, Boris Yeltsin proposed during the discussion of the agenda that the issue of the television company not be included in the agenda.

Decision on USSR Debt

LD2303172192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1616 GMT 23 Mar 92

["Decision of the Council of Heads of State of the Member-states of the Commonwealth of Independent States"]

[Text] [no dateline as received] Having examined a complex of issues connected with legal succession in relation to treaties of mutual interest, state ownership, state archives, debts and assets of the former USSR, the heads of state have decided:

1. To acknowledge that all the member-states of the Commonwealth of Independent States are the legal successors of the rights and obligations of the former USSR.

2. The member-states are setting up a commission of authorized representatives to hold talks and prepare proposals for a solution to the aforementioned issues.

3. Each member-state will appoint its authorized representative to the commission no later than 1 April 1992.

4. A member-state may include in its delegation up to five deputies of its authorized representative and the required number of experts.

5. The delegation of each member-state has one vote in the commission.

6. The decisions of the commission are adopted by consensus.

7. The commission starts work on 1 April 1992 and will hold its first sitting in Minsk.

8. To lay obligations to provide the organizational and technical back-up for the work of the commission on the working group for preparing and holding the Council of the Heads of State and the Council of the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth.

Done in Kiev on 20 March 1992 in one original copy in Russian. The original is kept in the archives of the government of the Republic of Belarus, which is to forward a certified copy to the states which signed this decision.

* * *

The decision was signed by representatives of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus (with the exception of point 6), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation (adding to points 1 and 2 the words "apart from state property"), Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine.

Peace-Keeping Forces Established

LD2003152392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] We again begin our bulletin with a live link-up with Kiev and details of the meeting of the Commonwealth heads of state. Our correspondent Vladimir Sokolov:

[Sokolov] An extremely important decision was adopted today at the latest session of the conference of the Commonwealth heads of state, albeit after lengthy debates. Originally, it was planned to discuss problems connected with the armed conflicts in Karabakh and the Dnestr region. However, this problem was discussed later in a broader form, taking the future into consideration.

And so an agreement was adopted on setting up a group of military observers and collective forces for keeping the peace in the Commonwealth of Independent States. It is being given the title Peace-Keeping Group [Gruppa po podderzhaniyu mira]. It is due to operate according to a common decision of the states and only at the request of one or several of them, with the obligatory consent of the conflicting sides. It has to be said that the representatives of Azerbaijan and Armenia were the only ones that opposed this.

The tasks entrusted to this peace-keeping group and the voluntary nature of the states and military servicemen at the time of its formation have been defined. It has been stipulated that these, so to speak, "Blue Berets" of ours may not take part in combat operations. However, by agreement of the states and in accordance with the UN

Charter, they may be enlisted into the UN's peacekeeping forces outside the borders of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

It should be added that, at a brief news conference for journalists, Ukrainian Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov reported that Ukraine would not sign a number of the agreements reached today on military-political questions, because it is not part of the joint Armed Forces. Regarding the withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons from Ukraine to Russia, the minister explained that the directive on Ukraine's nonnuclear status is invariable, and it proposes that the elimination of nuclear weapons should be carried out only under international control. That's it.

Next Summit on 15 May in Tashkent

OW2003194492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1821 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent reports from Kiev that the next CIS summit conference is going to be held in Tashkent on May 15.

Summit Participants Hold News Conference

LD2003204592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1830 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Report from Kiev by special correspondent Vera Shchelkunova]

[Excerpts] A news conference on the results of the meeting of CIS heads of state has been in progress for almost half an hour. The news conference was opened by Islam Karimov, president of Uzbekistan. He was chairman of the session of the council of heads of state, and so he was given the task of briefing journalists and the public about the results of the council meeting.

Islam Karimov said that 17 issues were discussed, and that decisions were adopted on all of them. Instructions were given for further work on another three matters for presentation at the next session. He also reported that the heads of government held a session of their own today, and also adopted three important decisions. That, in brief, was the information he gave. He then suggested that journalists put their questions to the other heads of delegations.

The first round of questions were the exclusive province of the presidents of Ukraine and Russia. This is natural—let's face it, everyone is worried by the tension in relations between these two states. A TASS correspondent's question was for Leonid Makarovich Kravchuk, who said at the beginning that the meeting was a watershed. Were Leonid Makarovich's hopes justified? Because so far it would seem that the Commonwealth has not adopted a single serious document that has been implemented, in Kravchuk's opinion.

The second question, also for the Ukrainian president, concerned nuclear weapons. Here is Leonid Makarovich's response:

[Begin Kravchuk recording] [passage omitted] As for the withdrawal of nuclear weapons, Ukraine's position is based on the fact that in accordance with the Alma-Ata agreement, there is supposed to be a commission on the destruction and the withdrawal of nuclear weapons. There is, as yet, no such commission. Perhaps I am partly criticizing myself here. There is no such commission. Ukraine has also advocated international supervision of the destruction of nuclear weapons. In connection with this, a question has arisen of the immense responsibility that we bear. Unforeseen actions could arise from our soil, and we have to be responsible in the resolution of all issues connected with nuclear weapons, without exception.

So we have been looking for the mechanisms of such a solution. Ukraine has thus temporarily suspended the withdrawal, while not altering the outline, and it continues to insist on this today. [end recording]

[Shchelkunova] Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk also said that in one of the newspapers, it seems it was the IZVESTIYA newspaper, it was reported that there was a telephone conversation between Yeltsin and Kravchuk regarding tactical nuclear weapons. There was no such conversation. The last telephone conversation between Kravchuk and Yeltsin was on 16 February.

Journalists then asked Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin to answer roughly the same questions, that is, was the meeting a watershed, and which results of this meeting Yeltsin considers the most important:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] I, too, do not believe that this meeting was a watershed. It was a routine one. But I would say that it was most successful, at least in terms of the documents and decisions which were adopted. You remember that we were quite unable to conclude military questions in the course of three meetings. Today all the legal questions connected with the joint armed forces at the stage of adopted documents have been resolved, and this is of colossal importance.

Regarding skepticism towards the CIS. I do not share it, since I believe that these processes are being influenced by various other questions, including economic reform, and also by the fact that the CIS and the statehood of every state were created, as it were, simultaneously. It was difficult to carry out these two processes simultaneously. But nevertheless, the skeptics who said that the CIS is necessary only so that the Union could disintegrate in a civilized way are, I believe, getting fewer. In any case, I never talked in this way. I believed, and believe, in the CIS. [end recording]

[Shchelkunova] Well, as I have already said, many questions were put to Yeltsin and Kravchuk at the very beginning of the news conference, and one was even like this: How did each of them assess the stance of the other?

To which Boris Nikolayevich replied that he believes that this session passed with more respect and patience toward one another, and that he finds Ukraine's stand very constructive, particularly in military questions, where the stands of Ukraine and Russia, he said, had practically coincided.

After this Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk's statement came as a surprise. He said that Ukraine was not taking part in the signing of the documents concerning the CIS Joint Armed Forces, and that Boris Nikolayevich had probably been a little bit inaccurate here. Regarding his assessment of the activities of the Russian leadership, Kravchuk emphasized that it is not his business to give such assessments, it is the business of the Russian people. But—and he was probably joking here—he said the following: I liked the Russian stand at this conference, because I understood that now we will never resolve the question of succession. He was referring, I should explain, to the fact that this first question was removed at Yeltsin's proposal, which many considered to be the main question. The resolution of this was what the subsequent course of the conference would depend on.

Why was this question removed? Because then it would be really necessary to count up everything which has been created in the Union since 1917 and then to divide all that property. Of course that is not a job for one day, and not for one conference.

I will not tell you any more about the news conference now; Nazarbayev's appearance was very interesting. I hope that in an hour we will let you listen to it, and generally tell you about the later course of the news conference.

Further Kravchuk Comments

LD2103161692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1322 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Excerpt] We keep returning to the results of the Kiev meeting of the CIS heads of state. Late yesterday evening the delegation heads held a news conference. One of the questions from the journalists was whether or not the meeting had been a watershed and whether or not the hopes of the state leaders had been justified. Here are extracts from the answers of Leonid Kravchuk, Boris Yeltsin, and Nursultan Nazarbayev.

[Begin recording] [Kravchuk] Opening today's session of the heads of state, I said in my capacity as host that I would like the meeting to be a watershed because, to date, the Commonwealth has not adopted any document of any significance that has been implemented—and I want to stress this—that has been implemented. I would even say that, between the first meeting in Minsk and today's meeting, the situation in the Commonwealth countries has considerably deteriorated, both politically and economically. The Commonwealth has not found the instruments or mechanisms to resolve complex issues. This meeting has not been a watershed because it could not be one. We have to look at the results of the work. Are we going to continue carrying out decisions the way we have been doing, or are we going to start implementing what we decide on? This is the reason why I said that if the circumstances in which decisions are implemented in the CIS are not changed, the CIS is doomed. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Yeltsin Cited on Military Budget

LD2003202792 Moscow TASS in English 2017 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents]

[Text] Kiev March 20 TASS—The issue of a joint military budget of the CIS armed forces was not decided on by the CIS heads of state on Friday [20 March] as they did not have enough time to agree on a list of military units to be included in the strategic forces, Russian President Boris Yeltsin told TASS upon the completion of the meeting in Kiev.

"The joint military budget can be distributed" among the Commonwealth members only after the issues of concrete composition of the strategic forces are solved, he added.

Practically all joint armed forces of the Commonwealth are being financed today by Russia and the issue of their future budget is becoming rather urgent.

Nazarbayev on Results

LD2003232892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1930 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Report from Kiev by "special correspondent" Vera Shchelkunova]

[Excerpts] Today's meeting in Kiev of the Council of CIS Heads of State took place in a constructive spirit and important decisions were taken. That was how Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov, who chaired the meeting and opened the news conference, described the importance of the meeting.

Now I should like to offer you a recording of today's news conference, and Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev's views on the outcome of the work done in Kiev by the Commonwealth's highest coordinating body.

[Begin Nazarbayev recording] For the Commonwealth to function normally requires economic coordinating bodies. Political independence, political sovereignty are a reality we all have to reckon with. We are building statehood—to be truthful, not a simple matter—out of a state which at one time lived under totalitarianism; and now to make it an independent state and create all the attributes that go with that is something costly and difficult. I am therefore pleased that I managed to push through my idea—that it did not simply remain words—and that in Moscow the heads of state decided to harmonize their positions on price formation for basic industries. They are now moving on to the question of setting up a banking union—I hope that will come in the future. Moreover, they have agreed to set up a railway council. They are now negotiating to halt the drain of goods, particularly of material and techical resources. I feel that I have been persistent in pushing these matters through and I am happy that they are now being resolved.

Next, there is to be a meeting in Alma-Ata on 27 March of chairmen of Commonwealth supreme soviets, which I hope will examine problems connected with setting up, perhaps, an assembly to try somehow to harmonize our legislation, particularly for entrepreneurs. Kazakhstan is playing the most active part in all these matters.

At today's meeting Kazakhstan presented several proposals to deal with the bloodshed now occurring in states which are members of the Commonwealth since we have no right just to stand by and observe. Our inactivity is prompting action from international organizations and others—the United Nations, the CSCE and so on. I am very pleased that after long debates we managed to adopt a document—a convention—to ban the use of force or the threat to use force and to avert or defuse disputes that could pose a threat to international peace and security. We adopted an agreement under which Commonwealth member-states will act together for the peaceful resolution of disputes and conflicts. And finally, we adopted an agreement to set up a group of military observers as collective peace-keeping forces in the CIS. All these documents were drafted and presented by Kazakhstan. And a document was adopted, the first to be adopted for a concrete solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh situation.

Therefore, on the one hand I understand the skepticism being voiced by some of my colleagues. There are things that I too am unhappy with. But I am convinced that there can be no other way for us than to strengthen the CIS as much as possible so as to be able to meet, exchange views, and create these independent states in a civilized way, and as far as possible to squelch all the emotions and conflict situations which might yield unpredictable consequences. Naturally, I too would like our meetings to be more effective. I too would very much like our decisions to be more specific and valid for everyone. It may be that we shall not achieve that but I believe that the politicians are bound to try. [end recording]

Leaders State View of CIS

LD2003220592 Moscow TASS in English 2154 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Kiev March 20 TASS—By UKRINFORM-TASS: Belarus is resolute to become a nucelar-free state. There are no violations or deviations in achieveing the goal, Belarussian parliamentary speaker Stanislav Shushkevich told a press conference on Friday [20 March] after the end of a CIS summit here. "We are transferring all nuclear tactical weapons (from the republic) ahead of schedule and will remove them as envisaged by international agreements, before July 1, 1992", he said.

Kazakhstan also strives to become nuclear-free and will join all agreements and treaties in future, according to Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev. "We want to be equal partners in future talks on strategic arms cuts... The reality is such that it was not the will of Kazakhstan to keep these armaments on its territory until all other missiles are eliminated as agreed", he stressed.

At the end of the press conference each of the participants expressed his view on the future of the Commonwealth. Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk sounded rather pessimistic saying that "the name of the Commonwealth of Independent States was chosen mostly like a dream". Boris Yeltsin, however, was optimistic: "The Commonwealth is a dynamic process and I am sure it will make the dream a reality". Askar Akayev is sure that "the Commonwealth is not just a dream, but a necessity". "One has to work to make the dream come true", Nursultan Nazarbayev added. "I think that the CIS has more grounds to be called a Commonwealth than the USSR had to be called a Union", Stanislav Shushkevich said.

Ukraine's Military Stance Viewed

MK2103093592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Mar 92 p 1

[Vitaliy Portnikov report under the general heading: "Can the Heads of State Make Effective Decisions? Leonid Kravchuk Asked This Question Yesterday at the Meeting of the Leaders of CIS Countries"]

[Text] At a short news conference in the press center during a recess in the meeting between the heads of CIS member states, Ukrainian Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov stated that general-purpose forces only unite those states that have expressed a desire to establish forces of this kind. Ukraine is not one of them.

Konstantin Morozov also announced that his republic was not taking part in discussions of issues such as appointing a commander in chief of special-purpose forces and a chief of the Joint Armed Forces General Staff, nor indeed in discussing any issues to do with the manning or the future of such forces. Neither would Ukraine be taking part in establishing common CIS border troops, and its borders would be guarded by its own border troops. But Ukraine did take part in resolving issues to do with social security for servicemen. Morozov disclosed that Leonid Kravchuk's decision to temporarily halt the removal of nuclear weapons from Ukrainian territory remains in force.

The organizing committee of the meeting announced at the news conference that preparations are under way for the signing of an agreement on establishing the institution of military observers and collective peacekeeping forces in the CIS. These will be able to be used only in the event of a request by CIS members and with the consent of the warring sides. Ukrainian Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov stated that his armed forces will take part in these forces only if the Ukrainian parliament makes a decision on this matter.

At press time several agreements had been signed: On the powers of supreme CIS organs on defense questions; a statute on the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command and the status of the High Command; on the legal bases for the CIS Joint Armed Forces; on the principles of bringing the CIS Joint Armed Forces up to strength; on the status of the general-purpose forces; on the CIS Armed Forces during the transition period; and on the staffing of the three leading command posts of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

The draft on army property has been removed from the discussion agenda.

Ukraine on Black Sea Fleet

LD2103171992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1206 GMT 21 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Kiev—Ukraine's Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov: Never has Ukraine claimed nor does it claim now its share either in the Baltic or in the northern or else in the Pacific Fleets.

Ukraine does not even claim that part of the Black Sea Fleet that is stationed outside Ukraine, Morozov told PF [POSTFACTUM] on March 20. He said, each state has a right to regard people who are doing national service as citizens of the state proceeding from their will.

Commenting on the position of the Ukrainian leadership as regards the future of the Black Sea Fleet, Morozov said: Our position is, first and foremost, that taken into consideration should be the interests of the people who serve in the Navy and the interests of the population residing in the area where the servicemen stationed. Proceeding from these we should consider this question, in terms of both economic and social issues. Therefore, a situation is now emerging where citizens of Ukraine residing in these cities and doing service in the Black Sea Fleet cannot publicly admit that they are citizens of Ukraine. They are being pressured, people's will is prevented from being freely expressed, that introduces social tensions. Our position is that we should take into consideration people's opinions and give them an opportunity to make up their minds as regards citizenship and then the process will get underway of its own accord. There cannot be any bans, persecutions or dismissals. If these questions are taken care of, the problem will take care of itself.

Morozov pointed out that part of the strategic forces stationed in Ukraine will remain on its territory for the time determined by the heads of states agreement. Until the end of 1994, he said, their status has been determined as temporary.

Ukraine's frontier troops, the minister went on, are subordinated to the republic's president and will defend its borders. As for the CIS United Armed Forces, unified command of the frontier troops will apply to those states that want it. Ukraine has its committee for border guarding, the frontier troops commander and the whole package of laws on state border guarding, Morozov stated. Asked if there will be frontier troops along the border with Russia, Morozov answered: I think that at the moment this question is not relevant. The status has already been defined by a bilateral agreement.

Morozov said that Ukraine will not participate in appointing the United Armed Forces Command as it is not part of the United Armed Forces and this is not its problem. Ukraine will withdraw tactical weapons, the minister said, as it is in conformity with the republic's nuclear-free concept. The missiles on the territory of the republic will be destroyed, the place of destruction being conditional on the way the question of international inspection over their destruction will be addressed.

Morozov confirmed information to the effect that the decision of Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk on suspending the withdrawal of nuclear weapons remains valid. We have settled all the questions and the mechanism is at work, it is now a matter of international inspection, he argued.

Moldova Official on Dnestr Conflict

LD2003165692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1500 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Report by Leonid Sviridov, special correspondent in Kiev]

[Text] Mr. Oazu Nantoy, director of the Political Analysis Service of the State Office of the Republic of Moldova, has held a news conference for accredited journalists at the meeting of CIS leaders in Kiev. He said, inter alia, that the Dnestr leaders have embarked upon a path of terror against the Republic of Moldova's state structures; upon the destruction of these structures, primarily of law enforcement bodies; and upon the creation of illegal armed formations. CIS troops—first of all, those of the 14th Army headquartered in Tiraspol—have given them generous aid. The Dnestr puppets, Mr. Nantoy continued, openly backed the putschists. It was they who actively participated in the elections held last December. In these conditions the open interference by Russian Federation citizens, such as Cossack mercenaries, has proved to be an extremely unfavorable factor. They have taken part in combat operations against the Moldovan police and served as a tool of terror against peaceful civilians. The Republic of Moldova's leadership is firmly against solving problems by the use of force, the director of the Political Analysis Service of Moldova's State Office went on to say. Perhaps certain mechanisms for a peaceful solution of the conflict will be found with CIS assistance. The conflict on Moldova's left bank has been political in nature from the start, the Moldovan leadership believes. Unfortunately, it is acquiring extreme forms now, those of civil war.

'Blue Helmets' Formation Agreed

OW2003184692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1610 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Press secretary of the Kazakh President Seytkazi Matayev told journalists at the Kiev summit that an agreement on the creation of peacekeeping forces and regulating ethnic conflicts and a group of military observers may be signed later on Friday [20 March]. The military organization taking after the UN "Blue Helmets" will not conduct military operations but only disperse fighting sides and not allow national conflicts to develop.

Nazarbayev's press secretary said that there is hot debate surrounding the creation of the forces. The Armenian President approved the idea, while representatives of Azerbaijan said they needed to consult with their parliament.

Yeltsin, Burbulis Interviewed

LD2003215292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Interviews with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and First Deputy Prime Minister Gennadiy Burbulis by correspondent S. Milyanchikov in Kiev on 20 March; from the "Vesti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Milyanchikov] Boris Nikolayevich, a brief question and a brief answer. Do you believe in the future of the Commonwealth, because unfortunately many presidents do not?

[Yeltsin] I think that today the skepticism on many people's part in connection with the results of our work has decreased and it will decrease further.

[Milyanchikov] How about relations with Ukraine?

[Yeltsin] There were no hitches in the course of the day.

[Milyanchikov] So there is full mutual understanding?

[Yeltsin] Yes, today there was.

[Milyanchikov] Thank you.

[Video shows Burbulis being interviewed] [Milyanchikov] Do you believe in the future of the CIS?

[Burbulis] I believe we will strengthen the Commonwealth in the interests of the states and the populations that they represent.

[Milyanchikov] Thank you.

Baltics

Baltic Council Issues Statements

LD1703120992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0800 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Documents adopted by the Baltic Council meeting in Jurmala on 16 March—read by announcer]

[Text] **Statement on the Withdrawal of the Army of the Former Soviet Union from the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Estonia, and the Republic of Latvia**

The Baltic Council notes the beginning of a dialogue between the Baltic states and the Russian Federation on the withdrawal from the territories of Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia of the Army of the former USSR, which is now under the jurisdiction of Russia. At the same time, the Baltic Council is compelled to state that because this dialogue is progressing unsatisfactorily, there remains a threat to the state sovereignty of the Baltic countries, and to peace and stability in this region.

So far, no attention has been paid to the Baltic Council's 5 October 1991 demand for an immediate withdrawal of the Army—including the offensive army, such as the airborne troops and the strategic air force—from the capitals of the Baltic states. There has been no response, except in the case of Azerbaijan, to the 5 January 1992 appeal to the leaders of the CIS member-states for the release of their citizens serving in the former Soviet Army which is to be withdrawn from the territories of Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia.

The former USSR Army that is to be withdrawn from the Baltic states continues to behave like a conqueror, and is ignoring the laws of the sovereign states of Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia. This is encouraged by the Army's lack of clear subordination to the Russian Government. Without the knowledge and agreement of the governments of the Baltic states, this Army is moving its units, and is continuing firing and shelling on land and at sea. Army units continue to damage the environment. The Army is becoming increasingly active in illegal economic dealings, for instance, by selling weapons and property, and by felling forests.

The Baltic Council protests these violations of the sovereignty of Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia, and demands that Russia take the most resolute measures to prevent such actions.

The Baltic Council also categorically opposes the further stay of the former border troops of the former USSR on the territory of the sovereign independent states because this prevents the forces of the Baltic states from protecting the state borders of Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia by themselves.

The Baltic Council stresses that Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia demand compensation in kind for their armies' armaments and military property seized by the USSR in

1940, which is essential for the restoration of their defense capability. It also demands compensation for other losses caused by the Army of the former USSR on the territory of the Baltic states.

The Baltic Council invites Russia, which has proclaimed itself to be the heir to the USSR's rights and obligations, to pursue a policy that will help strengthen the security of Europe and of the region, lessen tension, and create zones of trust. The intention to deploy in close proximity to the Latvian, Estonian, and Lithuania borders a large part of the Army to be withdrawn from central and Eastern Europe, and also from the Baltic states, does not conform with this.

The Baltic Council expresses the hope that the Russian Federation will display good will, and will do everything to ensure that the Army deployed on its territory is really and immediately withdrawn from the territory of the Baltic states. The Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Estonia, and the Republic of Latvia are ready to sign an agreement on the schedule and order of the withdrawal of the Army.

Statement on Demilitarization of the Baltic Sea

The Baltic Council has an interest in the permanent demilitarization of the Baltic Sea. The Baltic Council asks for the removal of nuclear weapons from the Baltic Sea and the region, and proclaims this region a nuclear-free zone. The Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Estonia, and the Republic of Latvia will welcome with satisfaction a gradual reduction of armaments in Kaliningrad and Leningrad Oblasts of the Russian Federation, and also in the city of St. Petersburg.

Statement on the State Debt of the Former USSR

In view of the problem of the USSR's unpaid debt, the Baltic states deem it necessary to state: The Baltic states are not the heirs to the former USSR, and therefore cannot be responsible for the repayment of the former USSR's state debts. At the same time, the Baltic states protest the Russian Federation's unilateral decision to block Baltic subjects' currency assets in the former USSR's Foreign Economic Bank.

Statement of Solidarity with Russia on a Meeting of the Former USSR's Former People's Deputies

The Baltic Council states that in light of the international situation, the plan by former people's deputies of the former USSR to hold a meeting on 17 March 1992 is an attempt to restore a totalitarian empire, and is a threat to the sovereignty of many UN member-states. The Baltic Council expresses solidarity with the stand the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet Presidium took in its decision of 11 March this year. We regard the attempts to organize this meeting as a provocation, the aim of which is to destabilize the political situation. The Baltic Council expresses the hope that joint efforts of democratic forces will give a resolute rebuff to all such designs.

Military

Desertion by CIS Troops in Georgia Reported

LD2003162692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1230 GMT 20 Mar 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Tbilisi— There have been more instances of desertion by servicemen doing national service in the Trans-Caucasian Frontier District Troops. The commander of the Trans-Caucasian Frontier District Troops, Major-General Aleksandr Tymko thinks that desertion is stimulated by the lack of activity on the part of the law-enforcement bodies as well as by certain actions of Russia's, Ukraine's and some other CIS states' military registration and enlistment offices. The district command has received numerous requests in the past few days from Moscow, Rostov-on-Don, Bryansk and the Tambov region for the deserters' papers to be sent over as they are continuing service at the place they were enlisted.

Data on Military Losses in Transcaucasia Noted

LD2003184592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1755 GMT 20 Mar 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Moscow—According to the data provided by the Joint Military Command of the CIS Armed Forces, there have been registered 127 attacks (shootings) on military objects and servicemen, with 18 CIS servicemen killed over 1991 and 112 attacks and 16 servicemen killed from January 1 to March 11 this year. According to a report submitted by Russian Supreme Soviet Deputy and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the CIS Armed Forces Colonel-General Boris Pyankov, there have been registered 68 attacks on military units, depots, columns, guard posts and servicemen in Azerbaijan, 22 in Armenia and 27 in Georgia. 12 out of 18 servicemen were killed in Azerbaijan, with 3 in Armenia and Georgia each.

Over 1991, 25 servicemen were wounded (11 in Azerbaijan, 5 in Armenia, 9 in Georgia). A total of 11 tanks were stolen and seized with 1 in Armenia and 10 in Georgia as well as 6 APCs, CFV (combat-fighting vehicle) and ARV (armored reconnaissance vehicle) (5 in Azerbaijan and 1 in Armenia), 11 special task vehicles in Azerbaijan, 7 automatic grenade dischargers (in Georgia), 421 automatic rifles (127 in Azerbaijan, 112 in Armenia and 182 in Georgia), 4 gun machines [as received] (2 in Azerbaijan and 2 in Armenia), 585 handguns (440 in Azerbaijan, 24 in Armenia and 121 in Georgia), over 33,000 cartridges (over 12,000 in Azerbaijan, over 8,000 in Armenia and over 12,000 in Georgia), 657 cars (14 in Azerbaijan, 60 in Armenia and 583 in Georgia).

From January 1 to March 11 this year, the following number of attacks was recorded: 87 in Azerbaijan, 6 in Armenia and 19 in Georgia, with 11 servicemen killed in Azerbaijan, 2 in Armenia and 3 in Georgia. Over the same period, 34 servicemen were wounded (27 in Azerbaijan, 2 in Armenia and 5 in Georgia); 63 servicemen were taken hostages (35 in Azerbaijan and 28 in Armenia); 12 servicemen were beaten (in Azerbaijan). 7 helicopters were stolen or seized (in Azerbaijan), as well as 14 tanks (in Azerbaijan), 4 BM-21 armored vehicles (in Azerbaijan), 90 armored combat vehicles (in Azerbaijan), 17 armored reconnaissance vehicles (in Azerbaijan), 3 Shilka 23-4 anti-aircraft self-propelled mountings (in Azerbaijan), 4 Strela-10 armored vehicles (in Azerbaijan), 269 cars (267 in Azerbaijan and 2 in Armenia), 36 guns and mortars (in Azerbaijan), 46 RPG and AGS-17 grenade dischargers (in Azerbaijan), 67 PK, RPK and KPVT machine guns (63 in Azerbaijan and 4 in Armenia), 10 SVD rifles (in Azerbaijan), 855 automatic rifles and carbines (816 in Azerbaijan, 3 in Armenia and 6 in Georgia), 113 handguns (92 in Azerbaijan, 1 in Armenia and 20 in Georgia), and 1,104 freight cars with ammunition.

Caucasian Mountain Dwellers To Set Up Army

OW2303115792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1016 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The session of the parliament of the Confederation of Caucasian Mountain-Dwellers which ended its work on March 22 in Vladikavkaz decided to set up an army of its own.

According to its resolution, the Confederation's army will act as a peace-keeping force. Its contingent will be located in the Chechen Republic and Abkhazia, and the bulk of the personnel will be volunteers from the Chechen guard.

The resolutions on the situation in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, adopted by the session, urge to settle the conflicts in these regions peacefully.

The session did not support the idea of signing a federative agreement between Russia and its autonomous entities, because in the delegates' opinion, the treaty is permeated with Russia's imperial ambitions.

Today, the Confederation unites representatives of 15 Caucasian ethnic groups—the Abazins, Abkhazians, Adygeians, Avarians, Chechens, Chechen-Akkins, Darginians, Kabardinians, Laks, Ossetians, Cherkes etc. The parliament consists of 45 members—each ethnic group is represented by three members. The leaders of the majority of the Caucasian republics have a negative attitude to this confederation.

Statute on Army Contract Service Outlined

MK2003133092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Mar 92 pp 1-2

[Report by Vladimir Mukhin of ARMIYA magazine, specially for NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, under the "Forecast" rubric: "Are Any Soldiers Likely To Be Found for the Red Army? Contract Service May Be Introduced as Early as This Spring"]

[Text] The professional army of which there has been so much talk in recent years will probably be formed as early as this spring, during the next draft into the CIS Armed Forces.

The draft "Statute on Performing Military Service in the Posts of Soldiers (Sailors) and Sergeants (Petty Officers) Under Contract" is being sent out to troops and military commissariats. The contents of this draft, which has been prepared by a group of specialists from the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command led by Colonel General B. Pyankov, deputy commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, is based on experience of contract service in the United States, the FRG, and other countries employing the volunteer principle in hiring army personnel.

The document envisages signing a contract: With youths of draft age, with servicemen who have served at least six months' compulsory service, with people with a military service obligation aged under 40, and also with representatives of the weaker sex (aged between 19 and 40 years).

Between 1989 and 1991 the Armed Forces Center for Military Sociological, Psychological, and Legal Research questioned servicemen from various districts and fleets about this matter, and almost 50 percent of respondents expressed a desire to turn professional provided certain conditions were complied with.

The research shows that fairly major material and financial expenditure is needed to satisfy the requirements of future volunteers. For example, the servicemen who were polled named as a condition of the contract an amount in pay for the post of soldier or sailor which at the time the poll was conducted was equivalent to the amount received by captains and majors in the Armed Forces...

Under the statute, the monthly pay of a volunteer, according to the location (region) and nature of service, could be as follows: For ground forces—between 1,370 and 4,085 rubles [R]; for flight personnel in the Air Force—between R1,780 and R5,240; for personnel in service afloat in the Navy—between R1,920 and R6,580. Servicemen who conclude a contract will be paid an annual one-shot award for zeal and high indicators in military work equivalent to two months' pay, as well as receiving material assistance equivalent to one month's pay.

Besides this, servicemen who perform their service on a contract basis will be provided with free food and uniform; the Armed Forces will also pay their traveling costs when they go off on leave. They will live in a separate room of the barracks or hostel. Those who wish to rent an apartment will be paid an allowance of R300-R350 per month. The municipal services will grant separate housing on the same basis as they do to everyone else only to servicemen who have served at least five years in the army.

But here another question arises: How long will the volunteers want to serve in the army? If for a short period—3-5 years—this will be extremely onerous for the military budget; after all, new professionals will have to be trained to replace those who have left. To some extent this problem is resolved by terms envisaged by the statute that are designed to encourage extension of the contract. For example, if he extends his contract by 10 years, a serviceman will receive an additional payment of five months' pay for the post and military rank he holds. In addition, increments are laid down for length of service, service in difficult climatic conditions and remote localities (up to 100 percent of the pay for the post held), skill rating, and also special service conditions. The minimum contract period is three years (for servicemen performing compulsory military service a two-year period is also possible). It can subsequently be extended by periods of 3-10 years.

Measures designed to extend the duration of servicemen's contracts for service in the army are an important element of state policy in the United States, the FRG, Great Britain, and other countries. In all likelihood, these measures will also be formulated in the future in the CIS countries that have agreed to have Joint Armed Forces. After all, according to the results of the poll, 75 percent of servicemen noted that they would like to sign a contract for a minimum term of three years... And a mere 17 percent of those polled noted that what attracts them to the army is the chance to progress up the service ladder.

Among those who would not be averse to volunteering, 75 percent were from working-class families, 13 percent were from peasant families, and 12 percent were from white-collar families. These proportions do not correspond to the distribution of the country's population in terms of social composition, and indicate that in the future the backbone of the country's (or Russia's) Armed Forces may be composed of people from the proletarian sections of the population. This conclusion is also reinforced by the fact that a shortage of manpower in the countryside will be felt for some time to come, and future unemployment will be observed primarily in industrial centers. Which will create a potential milieu for the army to recruit its volunteers.

Commonwealth

Strikes Continue in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine

LD2203175592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1936 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, 20 March (TASS)—Social tension remains in a number of regions in Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine where strikes staged by workers in some key industries and in the social sphere are continuing. The governments of these CIS member-states have encountered practically the same demands, solely of an economic nature: to increase wages and resolve social problems. Today one can observe a similar reaction from each of the republican governments, which reject these demands and refuse to enter a dialogue. So far this has only led to growth of the strike movement.

A strike by oil workers in the Komi Republic, which was resumed on 16 March, is spreading. In February they suspended the strike, having agreed with the Russian government that it would take decisions on their demands by 15 March. Having got nowhere by waiting for this, the oil workers stopped oil extraction at several dozen wells. They demanded that the government establish free prices on oil and gas, raise wages for northerners, provide them with all resources necessary for normal work and life, and establish a number of privileges for enterprises and the population in northern regions.

More than 130 production wells and about 40 well-sites of the "Komineft" [Komi oil] association were idle this afternoon. Volumes of oil extraction and of supply to consumers have fallen sharply. The oil workers were joined by workers in other industries. The strikers insist that a plenipotentiary commission of the Russian government should come for negotiations with them.

A strike by miners demanding an increase in minimum wages and calling for a considerable part of hard currency earnings to be placed at the disposal of labor collectives is continuing at the Soligorsk potash salt deposit. The Belarussian government regards these demands as unrealistic. The miners are threatening to stop shipment of products to foreign clients, a move fraught with big problems for the republic. Belarus leads the CIS in the production of potash fertilizer, which is its main export product.

Motor transport workers in practically all towns in Donetsk Oblast in Ukraine went on strike on 17 March, and this has led to sharp reduction in production at enterprises and to losses in sales. The inhabitants of the oblast are deprived of freedom of movement. According to a strike committee, the strike will continue since the Ukrainian government does not intend to enter a dialogue with the workers.

Minimum Subsistence, Wage Levels Introduced

PM2003153192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 1

["Own Information" report: "'Poverty Line' in Lithuania, Belarus, Russia"]

[Text] A new minimum subsistence level of 870 rubles [R] per month has been set in Lithuania; in Belarus as of 1 April the minimum monthly wage will be R550; and in Russia, as of the same date, at Vice Premier A. Shokhin's suggestion, the intention is to introduce a minimum wage of R750 phased in by region.

International Affairs

Yeltsin, Kohl Discuss Kiev Meeting Over Phone

LD2303131992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1245 GMT 23 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 23 Mar (TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl discussed over the phone today the results of the Kiev meeting of CIS heads of state on Friday [20 March], various aspects of Russian-German cooperation, as well as progress in economic reform in Russia and issues of assistance on the part of world community. The conversation was of a friendly nature.

This was reported by the press service of the president of the Russian Federation.

Yeltsin Transfers Baltic Troops to Federation

LD2303113692 Riga Radio Riga Network in Russian 2100 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree transferring troops in the Baltic border district to the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation and placing them under the command of the commander in chief of Border Troops. This has been done to improve guarding the external borders of CIS member states in the period of transition and to ensure the systematic withdrawal of border troops of the former USSR from the Baltic countries, the decree states. The operations of troops of the Baltic border district will be financed from the Russian budget. Lieutenant General Valentin (?Gafonin), commander of troops in the Baltic border district, has been appointed plenipotentiary representative of Russia for issues of the temporary presence and withdrawal of border troops from the territory of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. A Russian state delegation is empowered to start talks with delegations of the Baltic countries to define the status and procedure for the withdrawal of Russian border troops from the territory of the Baltic States and also procedure and conditions for (?jointly) guarding the borders of these countries until the withdrawal of border troops. The Russian state delegation is instructed to hold talks with interested CIS states on issues of defining procedure and conditions for guarding the external border of CIS member states with Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia using forces of the Baltic military border district.

Official Comments on Withdrawal From Latvia

OW2003195592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1830 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Director of the group of Russian military experts Sergey Zotov said in Riga Thursday [19 March] that the withdrawal of the anti-aircraft defense forces is only a symbolic step. The wide-scale and complete withdrawal of forces from Latvia can begin only after an inter-government agreement is signed.

A group of experts from Latvia and Russia met in Riga March 17-19 to develop a draft of the inter-government agreement on the withdrawal of former Soviet forces from the republic.

Zotov said an agreement was made during the talks requiring the commander of the Northwest forces Valeriy Mironov, to reveal the number of forces stationed in the republic. Zotov said there are currently 50-80 thousand troops in the republic. He said the Russian government needs to know the exact number of troops in order to provide housing for them in Russia. "A hasty withdrawal of forces may have serious political ramifications", the head of the Russian group said.

The Russian expert also said that Russia does not plan to maintain military bases in Latvia but is very interested in certain strategic installations "which would ensure the security of Latvia and Russia".

The Commander of the North-West forces Valeriy Mironov said at a press conference that the withdrawal of forces would be completed in no less than 5 years.

The General said that for each installation constructed from funds of the USSR's Defense Ministry a deed of transfer will be prepared stating the cost of the installation. The commander said the cost of the transferred installations will be determined at inter-government talks on the withdrawal of forces from Latvia.

Defense Unit Demands Discontinuing Withdrawal

LD2203210592 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2100 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Unit No. 55725 of the Russian air defense troops stationed in the vicinity of Riga has announced that it retains the right not to submit to an order on its redeployment or disbandment if the demands adopted at a meeting yesterday of the officers and ensigns of the unit is not complied with. The officers and ensigns demand a discontinuation of the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic states until the conclusion of an inter-state agreement between the Baltic states and Russia on granting political and economic guarantees to the citizens of Russia living in the Baltic states, and also guaranteeing that no sub-unit of the Russian Army will be withdrawn from the Baltics until the officers and ensigns serving in it are provided with places of residence and work in the territory of Russia.

There are other demands. The demands have been formulated in an open letter by the unit and have been signed by Lieutenant Colonel Slobodnik, the commander of the unit of Russian air defense troops, and Major Rozvinov, chairman of the meeting of officers.

The unit is not subordinate to the headquarters of the Northwest Group of Forces, but to the command of the Russian air defense troops in St. Petersburg.

Letters of a similar contents, however, are also being received from other units of Russian troops stationed in the Baltic states and which are subordinate to the command of the Northwest Group of Forces. Such information has been received at the press center of the Northwest Group of Forces.

Report on Yeltsin-Kravchuk Conversation Denied

PM2303131992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Pavel Golub report: "Kravchuk and Yeltsin Did Not Speak Over the Telephone"]

[Text] On Thursday [19 March] our newspaper published an INTERFAX report to the effect that, during a telephone conversation with Boris Yeltsin, the Ukrainian president had apparently confirmed his intention to withdraw tactical nuclear weapons from Ukrainian territory within the previously stipulated timeframe—by 1 July.

A "clarification" from UKRINFORM arrived at the editorial office Friday [20 March] morning, citing a report from the Ukrainian president's press service: "The leaders of the two states have not been in contact recently. As far as Ukraine's position is concerned, it is well known, and remains unchanged." So, did the two presidents have a conversation or not?

This question is not as insignificant as it may seem. After all, the Ukrainian president's press service deemed it necessary to immediately publish a "clarification" on the very day when both Kravchuk and Yeltsin were to sit down at the negotiating table in Kiev. And after all, if the conversation did not take place, then Ukraine's readiness to honor the commitments it has taken upon itself is put into doubt.

Let us note straight away that the Ukrainian permanent mission confirmed that the dates for the withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons remain unchanged. So that there is no reason to be anxious on this score. It is something else that is worrying.

As we have explained, no telephone conversation with Kravchuk was recorded in Yeltsin's office 16, 17, or 18 March. Russian State Counselor S. Stankevich informed INTERFAX of the conversation between the two presidents. INTERFAX possesses a tape recording of this report, the agency's head M. Komissar said.

In response to my direct question about the "culprit" of the refutation, unprecented in Russian-Ukrainian relations, he noted that he considers it immaterial "which specific one of the numerous conversations between the two presidents had produced the agreement... The main point is to clarify which one of Ukraine's positions remains unchanged: To withdraw its weapons by 1 July or not to withdraw them."

Judging by the state counselor's reaction, the Kremlin is not treating the refutation from Kiev as a signal of failure. The reference to an event which, as has now become completely clear, did not in fact take place, is turning from a serious political blunder into the object of a slight misunderstanding.

However, Ukraine has probably come to the conclusion that the people in the Russian president's entourage have not quite rid themselves of their old ideas. The autonomy of the former Union republics is still not being seen as something natural. Out of inertia, they frequently imagine them to be lower-ranking bodies, ready to agree with everything they are told "from above."

It would be sufficient to transpose this Russian-Ukrainian incident onto Russian-French or Russian-Italian relations, and the conclusion is quite obvious. It is clear that a direct telephone line between the offices of the two presidents does not only mean two nice telephones. It means a high level of confidentiality in their relations.

Yeltsin, Nazarbayev Hold Talks in Moscow

LD2303102792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0935 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, 23 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—The press service of the RSFSR president today circulated a report on the talks which were held in Moscow on 21 and 22 March between Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, and Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan president, as well as heads of government of the two states.

In the course of the talks, the report notes, the broad complex of interstate Russian-Kazakh relations, problems of domestic and foreign policy, and matters of a socioeconomic and military and political nature, were extensively discussed. The need for energetic, coordinated actions by Russia and Kazakhstan in all areas in accordance with the agreements adopted within the framework of the CIS was noted. The participants in the meeting underscored their resolve to implement coordinated actions for the practical realization of economic and political reforms, carried out with consideration for the fundamental interests of the peoples of Russia and Kazakhstan. B. Yeltsin and N. Nazarbayev entrusted the governments of Russia and Kazakhstan with preparing drafts of a treaty on military and political and economic relations between the two independent states on the principles of equality and mutual advantage. The presidents noted the importance of regular meetings between the governments of the two states on the whole spectrum of bilateral relations.

Yeltsin Criticized for German Autonomy Remarks

OW2103165192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Yeltsin's statement that for a German autonomous district to be created, the population of that district has to consist of 90 percent of Germans, has been dismissed as an "off-the-cuff remark" by the Chairman of Russia's State Committee for Nationalities, Mr. Valeriy Kishkov. He was speaking at a press-conference on Saturday [21 March] in connection with the second congress of ex-Soviet Germans. He said in particular that three governmental commissions will be set up next week to address the problems facing the German community.

An INTERFAX corresponent has been told by Mr. Hoerst Waffinschmidt, state secretary of Germany's Interior Ministry and the government's commissioner for displaced persons, that he had come to an understanding with Mr. Kishkov on matters related to creating an administratively autonomous German district in the Volga region during their talks on Saturday.

Mr. Waffinschmidt also said that durning the first two months of the year the number of former Soviet Germans who had wished to come to live in Germany had fallen by 15-20 percent compared to the same period last year.

Sanctions Against Libya To Affect Ties

OW2003153092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1356 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By Diplomatic correspondents M. Mayorov and I. Porshnev from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia will have to curtail cooperation with Libya more than any other nation if economic sanctions are imposed against Tripoli, a high-ranking member of Russia's Foreign Ministry told DP's ["Diplomatic Panorama"] correspondent. The issue of imposing economic sanctions against Libya was raised by the U.S., Britain and France in connection with Tripoli's refusal to cooperate with the U.N. in bringing to justice terrorists who were involved in the 1988 and 1989 explosions on board airliners.

According to the Russian diplomat, sanctions might affect military-technical cooperation between the two countries. He confirmed that the former USSR supplied Libya with arms. "A considerable group of our specialists" is working in Libya, giving the Libyans assistance in handling military equipment. Sanctions will also affect the flights of "Aeroflot" and Libyan air company planes to Tripoli and Moscow.

Ministry Issues Statement on 'Libyan Question'

LD2103154792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1348 GMT 21 Mar 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 21 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Foreign Ministry has issued a statement concerning the fact that the UN Security Council is proceeding to discuss a draft second resolution on the so-called "Libyan question." It is a question of devising and introducing a system of coercive measures aimed at ensuring that Security Council Resolution 731, which compels Libya to cooperate effectively with the investigation of terrorist acts against American and French civil aircraft in 1988-89, will be carried out.

The statement, which reached ITAR-TASS today, notes that "Russia has made and continues to make strenuous efforts to resolve within the due process of international law the conflict situation that has arisen." The document contains an appeal to the Libyan leadership "to heed the opinion of the world community, as expressed by the UN Security Council, and to immediately take specific steps to carry out the stipulations of Resolution 731."

Foreign Economic Minister Meets Libyan Official

LD2103234492 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0925 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, 21 Mar (JANA1)— The brother secretary of the People's Treasury Committee and the delegation accompanying him met in Moscow yesterday morning with the Russian foreign economic relations minister. The meeting discussed the scope for economic and commercial cooperation and ways of developing it in such a way as to serve the common interest of the two friendly peoples.

Kozyrev Calls South Korea Visit 'Success'

PM2303114192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Maksim Yusin report: "Moscow Promises to Support Seoul in 'Nuclear Dispute' with Pyongyang"]

[Text] Seoul-Tokyo—Having complete his two-day visit to Seoul, Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev has arrived in Tokyo—the last lap of his Far East tour.

For the Korean side the main result of the talks was the fact that Russia has to all intents and purposes promised to support Seoul in the event of the issue of North Korea's nuclear programs being examined at the UN Security Council. At an airport news conference before flying out, A. Kozyrev did not draw attention to this delicate subject, restricting himself to saying that Russia has a vested interest in there being no nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula.

Seoul diplomats were more definite. One of the participants in the talks told journalists that, in a discussion with his Korean colleague Yi Sang-ok, A. Kozyrev had promised "the Russian Government's full support during a discussion of this issue at the United Nations or other international organizations." Next day the major Korean newspapers front-paged this report.

South Korea has won an important diplomatic victory. Hitherto Russia had refrained from officially supporting Seoul in its dispute with Pyongyang on nuclear issues. Admittedly, in recent months Moscow had made no secret of its concern that North Korea is delaying ratification of agreements with the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] and hampering international inspection of its nuclear installations. Nonetheless, Russian diplomacy, following the long tradition of Soviet diplomacy, did not express open discontent with Pyongyang's policy. There is hardly any logical explanation for such tolerance today.

You get the impression that there are virtually no major differences between Moscow and Seoul today. The difficult points which overshadowed our relations have become a thing of the past—South Korea recognizes that the new Russian leadership has no moral or political responsibility for the Boeing tragedy. A. Kozyrev clearly managed to dispel his interlocutors' fears regarding our military shipments to Pyongyang.

"The period of the normalization of our relations with South Korea is over," A. Kozyrev said, summing up the results of the visit. "We are entering a new era—an era of full-fledged cooperation."

The new principles of bilateral relations, in the minister's words, will be reflected in a Russo-Korean Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, which it is planned to sign this September during B. Yeltsin's visit to Seoul. A decision has been made to open Russian and Korean consulates general in Pusan and Vladivostok, respectively.

As has already been reported, one of the most sensitive issues for Russian diplomacy at the Seoul talks was the question of loans. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Seoul froze payments from the more than $1.5-billion loan promised in January last year on the eve of M. Gorbachev's visit. The Koreans wanted firm guarantees from us that the loans they had granted to the now-defunct Soviet Union would be repaid by its successors. To do this we needed to check with the other CIS republics. Would Russia wholly assume the debt obligations itself (together with the right to distribute the loans, of course) or would it share them with its CIS partners? This question has still not been agreed within the CIS. A. Kozyrev was told this with regret on the first day of his visit by Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and Choe Kak-kyu, minister of economic planning, who saw no chance of unfreezing the loans. It seemed that the situation was deadlocked. Nonetheless, at the last minute the Koreans met us halfway and softened their position. A few hours before A. Kozyrev left Seoul President No Tae-u sprang a surprise on the Russian minister, promising to "give instructions" for the loans to be unfrozen. This development gave A. Kozyrev a reason to call his South Korea visit a success in all respects.

Kozyrev, Japan's Watanabe Discuss Foreign Debt

LD2003181192 Moscow TASS in English 1730 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vasiliy Golovnin, Vladimir Kuchko, and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Tokyo, March 20 TASS—The second round of negotiations between the Japanese and Russian foreign ministers discussed today the Russian payment of the foreign debt, the expansion of Russian sea communications with Japan and the fate of Japanese prisoners of war (POWs).

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev confirmed the stand of his government that all the debts must be repaid. However, in his opinion, there are "technical issues" to be tackled by experts.

The sides to negotiations expressed their interest in the development of sea communications between the two states. In particular, the Russian minister suggested the establishment of a direct sea route between southern Kuriles and the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido.

Kozyrev also noted Russian interest in the development of air communication, including the simplified procedure of entrance in both states by aircraft crews.

Speaking of the fate of Japanese POWs that appeared to be in the Soviet Union after the Second World War, Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe expressed gratitude to Russia for its list of 38,000 Japanese, who died in prison.

In his words, the fate of another 15,000 Japanese remains unknown. The minister requested the Russian side to find out about them and was assured everything necessary will be done.

Kozyrev said they expect from Japan lists of Russian citizens buried in Japan.

Next morning the third final round of the bilateral negotiations will be held to discuss international issues.

More on Debt

LD2103165892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1440 GMT 21 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kopnov]

[Text] Tokyo, 21 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—The problem of the former USSR's foreign debt was the focus of today's meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey

Kozyrev and Kozo Watanabe, Japanese minister of international trade and industry.

Delays in paying the debts of the former Soviet Union, the Japanese minister noted, "not only create doubt over the solvency of Russia but also serve as the main obstacle preventing the Japanese side from granting new credits." The quickest possible settlement of this problem and the creation in Russia of a reliable system of currency regulation, he stressed, would allow them to begin implementing the $2.5-billion economic assistance program announced by the Japanese Government last fall.

Andrey Kozyrev indicated that Russia is actively striving to resolve all the questions concerning the foreign debt of the former Soviet Union. It is necessary, however, to take into account the difficult economic situation in which the Russian Federation finds itself today.

During the conversation Kozo Watanabe reported on a program prepared by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry to raise the qualifications of nuclear energy specialists from Russia and the states of eastern Europe in Japan. In his words, this program is aimed at helping these countries increase the safety of AES [nuclear electric power station] operations. In reply, Andrey Kozyrev expressed his hope for close cooperation between Russia and Japan in this sphere.

Discuss Arms Reductions

LD2103102592 Moscow TASS in English
0857 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksander Kopnov, Vladimir Kuchko, and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Tokyo, March 21 TASS—A comprehensive insurance of conditions for security and stability in the Asia-Pacific region were the focus of attention at the third and final round of talks between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his Japanese counterpart, Michio Watanabe. The talks ended here on Saturday 21 March] afternoon.

The sides' approach, in which "international cooperation in defence industry conversion will combine with efforts to ensure the socio-economic wellbeing of the individual" as a result of disarmament processes, would be justified in the new system of political coordinates, the Russian minister pointed out during the talks.

Kozyrev drew attention to the fact that the earlier announced reduction in the armed forces by 700,000 men applied to the country's Asian part as well.

Michio Watanabe, for his part, pointed out that if Russia proceeds along the road of reducing its military presence in Asia, that would find a response in Japan where "Self-Defence Forces," in particular, would not be built up while the United States, in the opinion of the Japanese side, would respond by cutting down its military budget and beginning to reduce its military presence in Asia.

The two foreign ministers discussed in detail the question of making the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone. They agreed that it was essential to ensure all conditions so that nuclear weapons would never reappear on the peninsula in the future. The two ministers spoke out in favour of implementing as soon as possible the nuclear safeguards agreement signed between North Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency and carrying out appropriate inspections.

Kozyrev and Watanabe also touched upon the question of a final settlement in Cambodia. In this connection they pointed out in particular that U.N. peacekeeping operations in Cambodia should be both effective and economical to the utmost.

Kozyrev Holds News Conference

LD2103101792 Moscow TASS in English
0856 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksander Kopnov, Vladimir Kuchko and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Tokyo, March 21 TASS—The meaning and content of talks held in Tokyo were in preparing Russian President Boris Yeltsin's official visit to Tokyo so that his trip would end with the signing of a package of documents reflecting a new quality of friendly relations between Russia and Japan, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told a news conference for Russian and foreign journalists today at the close of the talks in the Japanese capital.

The talks went off "quite successfully," the minister said. The two sides agreed on the main thing, namely, that all issues should be resolved on the principle of "legality and fairness." Russia—the successor to all treaties and agreements of the former Soviet Union, including the 1956 joint Soviet-Japanese declaration—inherited not easy problems, one of which is the normalisation of Russo-Japanese relations and the signing of a peace treaty between the two countries. The way to it is barred by the territorial problem. However, "we now consider ourselves partners, not adversaries," Kozyrev said.

Good groundwork was laid by the meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in New York in January this year, as well as by an exchange of personal messages between them, Kozyrev recalled.

Yeltsin's message dealt with the establishment of friendly relations and, in prospect, of allied ones between the two states. In this case it is a question of "common democratic values and commitment to stability," not of a new military bloc, the Russian minister pointed out.

As for a solution to the problem of south Kuril islands of Iturup, Kunashir, Habomai and Shikotan, this question is "part of a package of issues to be tackled during negotiations on the conclusion of a peace treaty," Kozyrev emphasised. This problem, however, should be tackled with due regard for "all circumstances, opinions and interests of citizens and states." "In Japan, we met with an understanding of our stand. But this will require a forthright solution to the issue from us as well," he said.

The minister announced that he expects his Japanese counterpart, Michio Watanabe, to arrive in Moscow in May for a continuation of the talks. For his part, Kozyrev received an invitation to visit Tokyo in July-August this year.

Miyazawa on Kurils

LD2103104192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1000 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Before signing a peace treaty, Russia should recognize Japan's sovereignty over the four disputed islands said the Japanese prime minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, speaking with the Russian foreign minister, Andrey Kozyrev, who is staying in Japan for an official visit. If Russia agrees to do so, said Mr. Miyazawa, the Japanese side will allow a flexible approach to many problems.

For his part Mr. Kozyrev voiced Russia's intention to recognize all its former commitments, including the agreement of 1966 [as heard], according to which Russia was prepared to hand over to Japan two of the three [as heard] disputed islands after signing a peace treaty. However, said Andrey Kozyrev, the fact that Japan links its economic aid to the territorial problem may cause a large-scale political protest in Russia.

Kozyrev on Concessions

LD2203121892 Moscow TASS in English 1124 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo, March 21 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has underscored the importance of mutual concessions and creating the common groundwork for settling the territorial problem in relations with Japan.

He had a string of meetings with a whole number of prominent members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party today, among them former Prime Ministers Yasuhiro Nakasone and Noboru Takeshita, former General Secretary of the Liberal Democratic Party Ichiro Ozawa and former Foreign Ministers Hiroshi Mitsuzuki and Taro Nakayama.

Nakasone, who visited Moscow recently, repeated the call, which was articulated by him at the meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, for the problem of "northern territories" to be settled and a peace treaty between the two countries signed before the end of this century.

Kozyrev agreed with this formulation of the issue, but drew attention to circumstances that hinder the settlement of the problem, including the existence of forces that oppose this settlement and also economic difficulties through which Russia is now going.

In discussing economic reforms in Russia at the meeting with Kozyrev, Takeshita said Japan was prepared to help Russia with its counsel in efforts to switch the country to a market. Kozyrev expressed the intention to invite Takeshita to make a trip to Russia.

Talks on Territory Issue

LD2103132692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1205 GMT 21 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vasiliy Golovin and Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Tokyo, 21 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, in an interview with the NHK television company today, expressed the hope that Moscow and Tokyo will be able through joint efforts to reach some sort of decision on the territorial problem before President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan in September. Summing up the results of his talks in Tokyo, he said: "Both sides have a lot of homework to do, a lot of work to do within their own country, to determine their future positions. If we manage to talk about some sort of compromise, then both sides should be ready for it."

Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, at the news conference after the talks, noted that the territorial question between the two countries had remained unresolved for several decades and would not be settled in six months or a year. As the links between Japan and Russia become stronger, he said, it is essential to ensure that the coming together of their positions acquires more visible form. The minister expressed the desire that the bilateral talks preceding the visit by President Yeltsin develop precisely in this direction.

M. Watanabe confirmed that Tokyo does not intend to give Russia full-scale economic aid until a peace treaty is concluded. This does not mean, however, that Japan, knowing the situation in Russia, will stubbornly refuse to give any help at all, he said.

Replying today to a question in the budgetary commission in parliament's House of Councillors, Foreign Minister M. Watanabe said that Tokyo is not yet examining the question of participating in establishing a ruble stabilization fund. He said that the allocation of considerable sums does not yet guarantee that the Russian currency will be strengthened.

Kozyrev Briefs Media

LD2103214192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Video report by correspondent A. Koloshin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The concluding round of talks between the foreign ministers of Russia and Japan was held in Tokyo today. Asian-Pacific region issues were under discussion.

[Koloshin] Kozyrev had a meeting today with a number of prominent figures in the Liberal Democratic Party, where work was continued in the spirit of the meetings with Prime Minister Miyazawa and Foreign Minister Watanabe.

[Begin recording] [Kozyrev] The significance of the series of meetings during the past days at ministerial level lies in preparing President Yeltsin's visit to Japan in September this year, in such a way that it might end with the signing of a substantial political document. [end recording]

[Koloshin] A peace treaty is not being discussed as yet; there are still plenty of difficulties here.

[Begin recording] [Kozyrev] The territorial problem stands in the way of a peace treaty. At present the difference from the past lies in the fact that we see ourselves not as enemies in examining this problem, but as partners standing on the same side, while on the other side are the difficulties linked with resolving it. [end recording]

[Koloshin] Andrey Kozyrev had the last round of talks today with Watanabe, head of the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Ends Visit to Japan

LD2203070392 Moscow TASS in English 0644 GMT 22 Mar 92

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev left here for home by a special plane today at the close of his official visit to Japan. At Tokyo's Haneda Airport he was seen off by his Japanese counterpart, Michio Watanabe.

Kozyrev's visit to Japan was the final leg of his tour of a number of Asian countries, during which he also visited China and South Korea. Kozyrev held three rounds of talks with Michio Watanabe and had meetings with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and a number of other influential political figures of Japan.

Summing up the results of the talks, the Russian minister described them as quite successful. He emphasised that their meaning and content were in preparing Russian President Boris Yeltsin's official visit to Japan so that the president's trip could be crowned with the signing of a package of documents reflecting a new quality of friendly relations between Moscow and Tokyo.

The two sides devoted much attention to discussing the territorial problem and expressed a common opinion about the need to resolve it on the principles of legality and fairness. Other aspects of bilateral relations as well as a wide range of problems connected with the situation in the Asia-Pacific region were discussed as well.

The two sides agreed to give a regular character to the official dialogue started in Tokyo between the ministers of foreign affairs of Russia and Japan. The dialogue is expected to be continued when Michio Watanabe will visit Moscow in May. Kozyrev, for his part, was invited to visit Japan in July-August this year on the eve of President Yeltsin's visit.

Kozyrev on Japan Visit

LD2203111592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0930 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Telephone report from Tokyo by correspondent Konstantin Kupin]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] It should be noted that the situation in Russia has had some influence on the talks. It is known that the Kiev meeting was being held at the same time. This is what the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had to say on this topic.

[Begin Kozyrev recording] First, I would like to emphasize that there is a kind of division of affairs in Russia; the talks in Japan are one thing, whereas talks in Kiev are another. In fact, the issue is about foreign lands, our close neighbors. They are our close partners, and that is why we must develop normal relations here in the East. We must regulate these relations. That is why all of this is contributing to the creation of a ring of neighborly relations around democratic Russia.

Second, there has been a benevolent attitude toward us here. They wish, as do we, that the CIS will establish itself. But I think there is a better understanding here than at home that this is a very complex and prolonged process. Consider Europe; it has being working for decades toward a community that works, toward an integration that works. This process is just beginning in Asia. The first locations for this integration are being laid out. We should not be late, by the way, in getting involved in this. Actually, this cannot be done that quickly. Rome was not built in a day, and they understand that here. We should understand that the CIS is, just the same, as much a priority—in no way a lesser priority, and maybe in some way a higher priority—as regulating relations with Japan.

At the same time it would be a mistake to think that all conditions exist for the development of normal cooperation between us and Japan. A peace treaty has not yet been concluded. A solution acceptable to both sides or a compromise in relation to these islands—not a unilateral decision—has not been found. This is also a painful matter for us here in the Far East. One must realize this. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Kozyrev Interviewed on Ties With Asia

LD2303103592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0300 GMT 23 Mar 92

["Fragment" of interview granted by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to unidentified RIA-TV correspondents on board his aircraft returning from Asia to Moscow; date not given—recorded; video shows Kozyrev interview in progress; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] We have very good prospects to attain friendly prospects for perhaps close, even alliance, as they say, relations. But we have also inherited big thorns in the flesh which we have to pull out. Well, let us say that with Japan this is the territorial problem. We shall not advance very far until we have a peace treaty, or at least a precise understanding of how to progress toward that peace treaty. In order to do that our eastern border is essentially brought into question. Those who believe that one can simply close one's eyes to this problem, just as before, and say that it does not exist, as one did before, are wrong. That means that normal contacts will not exist with Japan. If we do not have normal contacts with Japan, you yourself will understand that means not entering the Asian economic space, and the ordinary Russian will not see either Japanese goods or Japanese joint enterprises, nor Toyotas, nor many other things, not because something is being purchased and something is being sold. Naturally the motherland is not bought, but because throughout the world people are travelling in Toyotas, in America they are travelling in Toyotas, in America they use Japanese goods.

Now to Korea. The prospects regarding Korea are very good. We will make preparations for a visit by Boris Nikolayevich. We will draw up a wide-ranging treaty. Again, this is so that such concepts as Hyundai, Samsung, and so forth increasingly become not just advertisements on the hoardings—you know, like you see along the roadside—but are in the shops, will be available for the Russians.

With China, in general, for the first time an official invitation was extended to President Yeltsin to go there. This is not just because one wants to organize yet another visit for the president. This, incidentally, is very difficult to do, taking into account the work load at home, but it is an indication of the fact that China, after some hesitation and doubt as to whether they are dealing with a reliable partner or government, has come to a final decision that yes, that is the future Russia; yes, these are changes that are irreversible; therefore it has decided to make such an invitation. So, there are masses of specific projects.

Kozyrev Stops Over in Vladivostock

LD2203110992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0930 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Andrey Kozyrev, minister of foreign affairs for the Russian Federation, stopped off in Vladivostok for a couple of hours today on his way back from Japan. Ministers and others accompanying him had meetings with the Maritime Kray administration, leaders of the local business community and economic structures of the region, and representatives of the command of the Pacific Fleet and border troops. According to ITAR-TASS, after completing his talks Kozyrev left Vladivostok for Moscow.

Returns to Moscow

LD2203182392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1801 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, 22 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev returned to Moscow this evening from a trip to countries in Asia. He made official visits to the PRC, the ROK, and Japan. During the talks and connversations which took place during the trip Andrey Kozyrev discussed a wide range of problems in bilateral relations and the situation in the Asiatic-Pacific Ocean region. He also exchanged opinions on a number of topical international problems.

The trip by the Russian minister took place within the framework of the program for "the creation of a zone of goodneighborliness and cooperation" around Russia.

Kozyrev Arrives in Helsinki 23 Mar

LD2303111692 Moscow TASS in English 1057 GMT 23 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Nikolay Vukolov and Aleksandr Surikov]

[Text] Helsinki, March 23 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived in Helsinki today. He will head a Russian delegation at the fourth meeting of representatives of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) member-states, opening here on Tuesday [24 March].

The programme of the minister's stay envisages meetings with Finnish President Mauno Koivisto and Foreign Minister Paavo Vayrynen.

Kozyrev is expected to have contacts here with a number of his counterparts who have also arrived to attend the opening of the all-European CSCE meeting.

Rogachev on Importance of PRC Military Ties

OW2003152492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1356 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By Diplomatic correspondents M. Mayorov and I. Porshnev from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "A visit to Beijing by the Russian President Boris Yeltsin in September is not ruled out", said Igor Rogachev, prominent Russian diplomat who served for a long time as Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister in charge of the Asian direction of foreign policy. B. Yeltsin signed a decree, appointing him Russia's Ambassador to China.

I. Rogachev is to fill his new post in mid April. In an exclusive interview for DP ["Diplomatic Panorama"] he said that the time for B. Yeltsin's visit to Beijing is to be coordinated with Chinese officials yet. However, considering that the Russian leader's trips to Tokyo and Seoul are scheduled for September, his visit to China's capital might take place during that tour.

With reference to the nature and prospects of cooperation between Russia and China, I. Rogachev said that "relations with China are a constant of our policy, one of its priorities".

According to him, Russo-Chinese relations are not beginning from scratch. They already have a firm legal base, and to strengthen it in every way possible answers to Russia's short-term and long-term interests. Therefore the main task of Russian diplomacy "in the Chinese direction" is to develop good traditions established in the past, particularly after 1985, said I. Rogachev.

According to the Russian Ambassador, relations with China should develop in all directions, including political, economic, humanitarian and military. The latter is of particular importance. The plans to reduce the army by 700,000 men will also affect military units stationed in Russia's Asian part, specifically in areas adjoining China. "Extremely important" negotiations on cuts in the armed forces and on confidence-building measures in the border regions have been conducted with China since 1990. "Good preconditions have emerged for concluding significant agreements". According to I. Rogachev, these negotiations might become a model for future multilateral talks in the Asia-Pacific region.

With reference to territorial disputes with China, I. Rogachev said that last May an agreement was signed on demarcating the eastern part of Russia's border with China. Recently it was ratified. However the terms "eastern" and "western" sectors of the border were inherited from the former USSR.

The former USSR's 7500-kilometer border with China was divided in accordance with natural conditions into 2 parts: eastern (that involved a 4300-kilometer border between Russia and China) and western. The latter included a 100-kilometer strip of the border between Russia and China, plus the sections of China's border with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

The border between Russia and China has been demarcated and confirmed legally throughout its length, with the exception of 2 small sectors negotiations on which will be continued. (This involves 2 islets in the River Amur: Bolshoi Ussuriysky and Tarabarov making up 350 square kilometers, and the Bolshoi Island in the River Argun).

As for the talks on the western part of the border between the former USSR and China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan will evidentty continue them as a unified delegation, said I. Rogachev. In any case, the 4 CIS countries bordering on China reached an understanding on this in principle, and China vigorously supports this understanding.

I. Rogachev described as "very complex" the issue of Russia's attitude to the observance of human rights in China. China is known to proceed from the assumption that human rights belong to the category of internal affairs. "In my view, it's unnecessary to display haste and attempts to dot the "i's" and cross the "t's" in this matter. China and a number of other Asian countries have specific attitude to such issues, and this must not be disregarded", said Russia's newly-appointed Ambassador to Beijing.

Chechen Recognizes Gamsakhurdia-Led Georgia

LD2003142792 Moscow TASS in English 1200 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy, March 20 TASS—The Chechen Republic, which claims sovereignty from Russia but has not been acknowledged by any other country, decided on Friday [20 March] to recognise Georgia as an independent state.

The local parliament authorised the Chechen Foreign Ministry to establish diplomatic relations with Georgia "after constitutional authority is restored there".

The wording is a clear referrence to the restoration in power of ousted Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia who has found shelter in Groznyy, the capital of the Chechen Republic. Part of the deputies of the dissolved Georgian Parliament are also staying in Groznyy and held a session there on March 12-13. Since then their political activity has gone down.

The Georgian prosecutor general asked Chechen President Djokhar Dudayev to deport Gamsakhurdia to Georgia where he is accused of embezzling state money.

Government, Cuba Negotiate Projects Completion

OW2003153792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1356 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By Diplomatic correspondents M. Mayorov and I. Porshnev from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] So far it's not clear whether Russia will take part in completing those facilities in Cuba whose construction was begun by the former USSR. A Cuban delegation is engaged in negotiations on these issues in Moscow now. It is led by Enrique Melendez, chairman of the state committee on external economic relations.

As DP's ["Diplomatic Panorama"] correspondent was told, Russia has suggested that Cuba should begin to repay credits granted to it for the facilities under construction with deliveries of its export products. Russia will be prepared to start concluding those facilities only after that.

Russia could also take part in completing the construction of the nuclear-power plant in Jaragua. However, as DP's correspondent was told by Yevgeniy Reshetnikov, Deputy Minister of Nuclear-Power Engineering, all will depend on whether Cuba manages to give guarantees for the repayment of its debt and proclaims its willingness to shoulder all hard-currency expenses connected with purchasing equipment for the nuclear-power plant. In particular, the project provides for equipping the plant with an automatic system for monitoring the technological process in connection with which Havana has already begun negotiations with Germany and Italy.

Official on Bombs Thrown at Embassy in Quito

OW2003163892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1356 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By Diplomatic correspondents M. Mayorov and I. Porshnev from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia and Ecuador maintain "good relations", DP's ["Diplomatic Panorama"] correspondent was told at Russia's Foreign Ministry today. There was nothing to prompt terrorist acts against Russia's Embassy. On Thursday [19 March] 3 gasoline bombs were thrown into the courtyard of Russia's Embassy in Quito. No one was hurt.

As DP's correspondent learned from Lev Novikov, spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, "It was the first such action launched against our Embassy in Ecuador in the past few years". "The Ecuadorans have always been amicable toward us," the diplomat said.

He said he feared that a wave of terrorist acts might sweep the whole of Latin America, but evaded making parallels between the events in Quito and Buenos Aires, where Israel's Embassy was blasted previously. According to the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman, the terrorist who threw gasoline bombs into the courtyard of Russia's Embassy in Quito "is not likely to be found".

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Decrees Novaya Zemlya Russian Property

LD2003171892 Moscow TASS in English 1706 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow March 20 TASS—"Under a decree of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the central nuclear testing grounds of the Russian Federation (the Novaya Zemlya Islands) have become federal property of Russia", a representative of the naval department in charge of the Novaya Zemlya nuclear testing grounds told ITAR-TASS today.

The Russian Federation grants the CIS Allied Armed Forces' Supreme Command the right to use the federal land and property of the testing grounds, stressed the representative.

The testing grounds will keep the territory within borders established by a protocol to the treaty between the former Soviet Union and the United States. The testing grounds' territory within these borders is a restricted area, and the testing grounds are a special regime facility.

Asked about plans for operation of the testing grounds, the representative said "the Russian president has declared a moratorium on underground tests until October, 1992. Their renewal is possible after the term of the moratorium expires and a correspondent decision of the Russian Government is adopted.

"No new galleries or wells are being made. Regular work, which began in 1990, is being done at already existing facilities."

Yeltsin Postpones Meeting With Political Leaders

LD2303094992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] The Russian president's press office has revealed that the meeting between Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and leaders of political parties planned for today at 1600 in the Kremlin has been postponed. The time and place for this meeting will be specified tomorrow.

Yeltsin Addresses Muslims on Spring Holiday

LD2203185292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] President of Russia Boris Yeltsin has sent congratulations to the Muslims living in the Russian Federation on the spring holiday, the beginning of the new year, Nowruz Bayram. The Russian leadership intends to maintain the development of the cultures of all the peoples living in the Federation, and to promote the preservation of their traditions and spiritual heritage, the address says. What is needed today as never before, during the difficult transitional period, is unity and mutual understanding among the people of Russia, irrespective of their nationality or religion, the address says.

Burbulis Views Current Issues, Policies

LD2203230292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Interview with Gennadiy Burbulis, state secretary and first Russian deputy prime minister, by commentator Tatyana Khudobibna; place and date not given; recorded—from the "Facing Russia" program]

[Text] [Khudobina] Gennadiy Eduardovich, two events of the past week were singled out both by the press and public. They are: the Kiev meeting of the CIS leaders, and the referendum in Tatarstan. In my view, both events were a test for the Russian policy which is taking shape. They showed, to some extent, its weak aspects, namely excessive attention to the problem of the CIS and the desire to resolve it in a short time. The hope that it can be resolved in a short time engendered some unjustified expectations that the Kiev meeting would produce some kind of super-constructive decisions. On the other hand, it pushed into the background, so to speak, the objective processes in the former CIS [as heard]. As you know, politics differs from politicking in that it is based not on illusions but on realities. It seems to me that it would be an illusion to expect that, while forming their policies, independent sovereign states would first proceed from common interests, and only after that, from their own ethnic interests. Do you agree with such a formulation of the question?

[Burbulis] What was brought to light, what was revealed to a greater extent on 20 March in Kiev is that there is a whole series of states of the former Union which have a fundamental, conscious, and consistent interest in setting up an effective form of cooperation which would allow us to resolve our problems efficiently. There is also a second group. The Commonwealth for them is in fact a transitional stage, perhaps externally a form of ritual, which will allow them to push through and insure their independence at all cost. At the same time, if one is to be objective, we will back in every possible way all plans and all actions within the Commonwealth despite the fact that some impatient citizens or some commentators with vivid imagination have been overcome by a desire to either immediately condemn or immediately question this process. This process is normal.

The same goes for Tatarstan. We cannot permit indifference toward what is called the integrity of Russia, in its historic perspective. We cannot force through today the so-called rights of the supreme power in regions, territories, and republics since this is not our credo, this is not at all the meaning of our reforms; we are fighting for a completely different thing. At the same time we have reasonable prospects in view , namely the constitution, the new structure of the Russian Federation, a negotiating process between the republics and the center. Tatarstan may find its own place in this, even with the unique baggage which it has acquired and including the results of yesterday's referendum. The president of Tatarstan has declared and stated many a time: We are for full-blooded relations based on agreements, and we plan no other steps.

Now is the time for you to prove how much of a politician you are and how much you stick to your words before the whole world and bear responsibility for them before the entire process you are guiding. The Russian leadership, for its part, and President Yeltsin too, has also confirmed many times that it is rather a question of a search for a more precise and better Russian state structure which would significantly renew the rights and opportunities, and naturally, the responsibilities of the republics within the Russian Federation. We invite Tatarstan to join the federation treaty, which is to be signed in the Kremlin on 31 March. We think that this will be a worthy start to the great task which the Congress of People's Deputies will be resolving.

[Khudobina] Gennadiy Eduardovich, last week the disagreements between the Russian parliament and the government again worsened; in particular, the disagreement that the parliament expressed with the government's outline for changes, and the hint that Vice Premier Shokhin may be sacked in connection with this. What is behind the conflict between the government and the parliament, and how do you see things?

[Burbulis] The desire of the deputies to support what we call social protection of the population in conditions of reform is quite genuine and humanly understandable. But how can this be done? Not too many think about it, and as a rule, just one thing is proposed: Finance it. That is, this kind of thing has occurred again and again. But we are convinced that, yes, of course, state budget financing is a necessary part of the process of economic life. But we cannot give in without restraint to this habit, otherwise we are no government of reform, but a government that largely agrees with the Soviet economic tradition, guided not so much by a program of change as by a wounded, pained heart of a sympathetic person. We have worked and are working as a government of like-minded fellow campaigners, and in this respect the simplest thing for Aleksandr Nikolayevich Shokhin to do would be to say one sentence at the Supreme Soviet.

You know, I also try to get this out of them, but the minister of finances won't let me have anything. But he has not been doing it, and won't do it, because, to begin with, he understands all the economic consequences, and second, he also has a certain moral obligation as a fellow campaigner who has consciously undertaken this cause. They won't be able to split us. They won't be able to put us off our work. At the same time, we are prepared to tackle jointly with the Supreme Soviet this very difficult situation that our citizens of Russia find themselves today, and we intend to do so. But not through the usual ways, and not through righteous indignation, but through very difficult, very serious, very responsible work, where we jointly adopt the decisions and bear joint responsibility for them.

[Khudobina] Setting off for Kuzbass, Aleksandr Shokhin said this: The government is not a fire brigade, and so we are travelling as part of a tripartite delegation, with representatives of the trade unions and the manufacturers as well.

[Burbulis] This is a fine combination—the trade unions, if they are 100 percent and full-blooded, and not looking to the short term; and the manufacturers, an unaccustomed word, meaning that the commission includes representatives both of state industrial enterprises and of newly formed commercial structures. And it is more important for them than for anybody to support the production process, not to dissipate everything worthwhile that we have, and, in this instance, to support the government in this work. And finally, there is the government. It is one of three in this combination. And they are looking for an answer in precisely this combination, on the spot. That is how things will be in the future. One thing is demanded from us: hand over the money. But we say: There is no money, but we are in favor of giving you freedom. But freedom not as a gift, not as a sop from the authorities, but as a legally guaranteed basis, an opportunity to run a business fruitfully in these conditions, with all the new property relations and administrative relations that we are creating.

[Khudobina] Is the government still sticking to its idea of a deficit-free budget? No success was had in implementing this policy in the first quarter. Now, reaching this target has been put off to the end of the year.

[Burbulis] Well, of course our budget cannot be deficit-free. But it is important for us to establish a new attitude to money resources. We have transferred, in the main, to funding the federal budget through taxes, and now we have to be able to collect these taxes. This is why Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] this week signed a decree on setting up a special administration in the taxation service, what one might term in a simplified way as a tax militia. We must also change the attitude of state service toward funding the budget. But we must also change attitudes to spending from the budget. The policy there is a harsh one, too, because it is only now that we are getting around to stopping ourselves from financing senseless so-called projects of the century; only now have we taken full control of everything that one could describe as financing purchases and manufacture of weapons. In reality it will of course be in deficit, but how much this deficit really is, how much it is capable of, will depend upon us. Or it will once again be [words indistinct].

[Khudobina] Our society and our economy will in the near future have to experience another sharp shock as a result of fuel prices being freed.

[Burbulis] This is one of the culminating issues, in principle, of the reform at this stage. So as not to engender fresh fears, I would put it like this: This measure is an organic part of the whole process of economic reforms, and we will try, together with you, together with the citizens of the Russian Federation, together with specialists, to accomplish it in the gentlest possible way, in the most painless way possible. But to screw up one's eyes and go away from it because it appears to hold out the prospect of extremely dangerous consequences would also be impermissible, in our position.

[Khudobina] Has the Russian Government been able to create for itself a social base for the reforms? Who stands to gain from the reforms now? On whom does the Russian Government rely now?

[Burbulis] Our bulwark for reforms consists of those who have consciously, let us put it that way, rejected socialist and communist illusions, and those who are today getting involved in practice in the work of reforms. The spectrum of political dispositions in our country is such that there are two poles, the reformers and the conscious revanchists; and between them the majority of the population is at various stages on the spectrum in their attitude to what is happening. We saw it as a very strong initiative when the other day it was announced that just before the congress there would be a gathering of citizens of the Russian Federation, the important point being that it would be a gathering precisely of citizens of the Russian Federation, where the political parties, union movements, entrepreneurial structures, creative unions, academic establishments, representatives of territories and regions, ecologists, culturologists, industrialists, will find their place. But the most important thing is that the citizen of the Russian Federation who has never fitted in anywhere will find his place, will now be able to make his choice.

[Khudobina] President Nazarbayev has signed a decree on stepping up the fight against corruption. This envisages very specific measures, including a ban on gifts to officials, 35 percent of the sums paid to the state for damages to go for the needs of the law enforcement bodies, and so on. Russia embarked earlier on the path of the fight against corruption. One would like to know what specific results we have today.

[Burbulis] There is a lot of talk about corruption. Where are the specific deeds? It has turned out that in the context of our Russian transformations, this part of the work needs today to be pulled together in a certain way. And since we have our weekly conference, we intend at the next one, on Friday 28 March, to examine a number of quite specific, targeted actions, whether this concerns oil sales, diamond sales, whether it concerns work involving many billions connected with the marketing of our military property, including that from the countries of East Europe, or whether it concerns the very delicate matter of involvement of civil servants in commercial structures in parallel with their main job. That is one of the direct areas that we intend to work on at the moment. Our task is not to start a witch hunt here, not to organize some campaign, but at the same time, to offer Russia's citizens some specific and objective, if you like, results of this work. And we will begin with ourselves, with the government, with the ministries, with state services, since this fits in with our ideals and with our principles. If you want order in the state, then first of all insure it in your own structures.

A special group has been formed, it will be headed by Sergey Mikhaylovich Shakhray, and his task is to analyze and evaluate the whole foundation of law-making acts that exists in Russia today, and to promptly come back with proposals on what will need settling in the near future by presidential decrees, where amendments to our laws, to the criminal code, are possible, and where we will have to speed up the adoption of laws without which it is altogether difficult to speak about this.

[Khudobina] What is the purpose of a Russian Government delegation setting off tomorrow, Monday, 23 March, for Kazakhstan, one that is so broad and heavyweight?

[Burbulis] This idea arose organically enough, and it makes a great deal of sense. First, we have instructions from the presidents, President Yeltsin and President Nazarbayev, to achieve a situation where there is an absence in the relations between Kazakhstan and Russia of what is today being called ambiguity in the economic relationship. Second, our delegation will include the heads of a whole range of enterprises that have direct and historic ties with enterprises in Kazakhstan, and it will be important to think again and again and again about how to preserve these ties and give them new economic substance, without upsetting the overall strategy of reforms. Third, we are also tasked with discussing issues of military-political cooperation between Kazakhstan and Russia, presupposing that to this end we have, first, a certain impetus from all the issues within the CIS that have already been resolved, and second, our bilateral treaty. The latter envisages development of such cooperation in depth.

At the moment it is difficult to judge in advance how all this will turn out, but I am speaking about all tomorrow's work with a certain enthusiasm precisely because this is a very promising prospect, it goes to show that it is not the disintegration of a union, but the formation of new ties, perhaps considerably more intensive and substantive ones, between states united not just by a common territory, but also by common aims for reform. I have very great hopes for tomorrow's work, all the more since we have made very serious preparations for it in virtually every industry, there has been serious advance work in all areas. We will sign many, many documents of a specific nature. But I would stress once again that the supreme task is to find fundamentally new solutions for the relations between our two states, including in the military-political sphere.

[Khudobina] And, clearly, to perfect a model for the coexistence of the former republics.

[Burbulis] Yes, this could prove to be the assemblage that all the others could worthily join in with, in this case, the states of the Commonwealth which to this or that degree have a restrained attitude to our work in Minsk, in Alma-Ata, in Kiev, and so on.

[Khudobina] Thank you, and I wish you successful work in Kazakhstan.

Burbulis Urges Tatarstan To Sign Treaty

LD2203215392 Moscow TASS in English 2139 GMT 22 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow March 22 TASS—"We call Tatarstan to join the federal treaty which will be signed on March 31 in the Kremlin. This will be an effective way to undertake an important task which the Congress of Russian People's Deputies will be fulfilling", Gennadiy Burbulis, Russian first deputy premier, said in an interview broadcast Sunday [22 March] evening by the Russian television canal in connection with the referendum held in Tatarstan on Saturday (according to preliminary information of the Central Electoral Commission, 50.2 per cent of residents of the republic having the right to vote have participated in the referendum for Tatarstan's independence—ITAR-TASS).

Burbulis, specifically, said that Russia has normal perspective, constitution, new structure of the Russian Federation, negotiating process between republics and the centre and that Tatarstan can find a niche in it with the special contents it has now including the referendum's results.

Russian leaders and President Yeltsin said more than once that there is a quest for the optimum structure of the Russian state which would substantially renew the rights and opportunities and responsibility of republics within the Russian Federation.

Asked about differences between the parliament and government, Gennadiy Burbulis said that the government and parliament work jointly as associates and are not to be split or discouraged. He said the government is prepared to resolve jointly with parliament a most difficult situation now experienced by people of Russia. This is to be achieved by serious and responsible work, by joint decision-making and sharing of responsibility, Burbulis said.

Burbulis on Need for 'Muscle' in Crime Organs

924C0933A Moscow TRUD in Russian
14 Feb 92 p 2

[Article by G. Burbulis, state secretary of Russia and first deputy chairman of the government of the Russian Federation, under the rubric "Russian Government's Viewpoint": "The Muscle of Power"]

[Text] As is known, there are two dangers that threaten a full-fledged authority: powerlessness and venality. Also, these two dangers are, as a rule, interrelated: powerlessness pushes the authority to enter into a compact with shadowy forces, corrupt organizations, and the criminal world. The more set these "connections" become, the more powerless the authority becomes.

Not to understand this today—in the situation of a large-scale regrouping of power structures and a breakdown of the familiar notion that the authority in the democratic state is not "a man with a rifle" standing behind the shoulder of every citizen but the law elevated to an unbendable principle of human life—would be at the very least flippant on the part of the government. Because of these circumstances, a decision has been made to find acceptable forms of consolidating the government enforcement structures in order to combat traditional spheres of mercenary interest of organized criminal groups and hinder the linking of some officials with corrupt commercial organizations involved in illegal activities.

As directed by the president of the Russian Federation, last week the government created a permanent organ—the conference for protection of citizens, property, and state organs of authority from organized crime; on a regular basis, once a week, let us say, it will gather around a table top officials from the Ministries of Security, Internal Affairs, and Justice, the foreign intelligence service, the Committee for Protection of Russia's Economic Interests, the customs service, the tax inspectorate, and the Control Administration under the President of Russian Federation. The purpose of this multilateral information and analytical structure is to analyze and evaluate the situation and the capabilities of the Russian authorities in the purposeful and effective struggle against organized crime, in rooting out even the smallest temptation for state employees not only to help criminal elements but also to work, participate in profit sharing, or even be on the payroll of commercial structures.

Corruption is not a new term for Russian organs of law and order. Figuratively speaking, before the reforms, before the democratic leadership came to power, our entire country had been to a certain degree corrupted by the party-bureaucratic elite that appropriated everything for itself. But today that corruption, resulting from the beginning of economic reforms unprecedented in the history of Russia, is acquiring a greedy, predatory, almost holocaust quality. Having analyzed over 850 criminal cases related to corruption, we can now identify certain trends: the active drawing of officials and enterprise directors into criminal activities; the spreading of large-scale criminal machinations with materials, raw materials, equipment, and finished output in the cooperative sector of the economy; increasing bribery of bureaucrats who can influence material-technical and financial input or taxation; the pumping of financial resources of enterprises and public organizations into cooperatives with the subsequent conversion of noncash money into cash. It is not without the direct complicity—there is no other name for it—on the part of corrupt bureaucrats that unprofitable contracts are being signed with foreign companies and the outflow of raw materials from the country has acquired massive dimensions.

What our organs of law and order acutely need today is that very muscle of power I have been talking about. A legal basis, laws on government service and on combating organized crime and corruption. We need to find a new and effective approach to this problem that has existed for many centuries in every country in the world. The joint efforts of the government, the Supreme Soviet, which adopts the laws, and the president of Russia, who has the right to issue decrees of direct normative action, personally, will enable us already now to start a decisive and uncompromising struggle against this evil.

Burbulis Says Reforms 'Necessary Means'

LD2103170892 Moscow TASS in English 1441 GMT
21 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow March 21 TASS—"Economic reforms, although difficult and painful, are not the goal, as many people think, but the necessary means," Secretary of State and First Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Gennadiy Burbulis wrote in TRUD today. "Moreover, they are just a small part of the transformation processes taking place in Russia, which are being actively promoted by the reform cabinet. Apart from the economic sphere, the reforms, and significant ones at that, are developing in the state, legal, social, political, scientific, technological and military spheres."

In the opinion of Burbulis, the objective of the transformation activities of Russians is the revival of Russia "by means of democracy, through civil accord and national cooperation." According to Burbulis, one of the main tasks facing the government is "the attempt to take into consideration as much as possible regional, territorial and national characteristic features of the reformation process."

Legal Backup for Reform Signed

OW2103053292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1436 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [19 March], Russia's First Vice Premier Gennadiy Burbulis signed a resolution on the legal backup for the economic reform and economic stabilization. Attached to it is a list of laws and draft presidential decrees which the ministries and departments are to present to the government during the first six months of the current year. A commission led by First Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar has been set up to draft corresponding documents.

According to the resolution, in March the Cabinet will receive a draft privatization programme, documents on prices and working and recreation time, the fundamentals of the housing reform, as well as draft presidential decrees on trade, on settling accounts with the CIS states and on the state conversion programme.

In April the government will concentrate on the laws for free economic zones, and for the state employment programme for the servicemen transferred to the reserve and members of their families. In May the Cabinet will consider the draft land code and in June—draft documents on environmental protection, state insurance of the citizens' bank deposits and individual voluntary insurance against unemployment.

Gaydar Hopes To Avoid Wage Freeze

LD2003233192 Moscow TASS in English 1723 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By Free-Lance TASS correspondents Anna Tyagunenko and Nikolay Gorlov]

[Text] Moscow March 20 TASS—"The Russian Government does not intend to introduce any limitations on wages at state-owned enterprises", but the measure nevertheless can be used to fight inflation, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar told the leadership of the Working Centre for Economic Reforms on Friday [20 March].

"I do not think it can be effective in this country. The extreme measure may be introduced in future for a short time as an instrument of curbing inflation. But I hope we shall manage to avoid it", he added.

The earnings of the population can drop by one third according to their purchasing power at the end of the year, Gaydar predicted referring to an analysis of the rate of price and wage rises in January-March. "This is the level we can allow ourselves in order to live in a regime with no deficit and inflation", he said.

Consequences of Freed Energy Prices Eyed

PM2003161192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 20 Mar 92 p 2

["Fuel Review" comprising KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA introduction, reports by Ye. Anisimov, Ye. Arakelyan, and N. Tkacheva, and commentary by "Epitsentr" (Yavlinskiy's group): "Internal Combustion Country"]

[Excerpts] People had only just stopped clutching at their chest on seeing the new prices, when the government prepared a new surprise—the prices of energy carriers will be freed in April. Our country occupies one of the first places in the world in terms of per capita consumption of petroleum products. Essentially the whole of industry, agriculture, and every family depend on oil. We are sitting on a barrel of gasoline, and people seem to be putting a torch to it. Nobody knows where we will end up after the explosion. But it is still possible to attempt to forecast the situation in the most important sectors. [passage omitted]

Instead of a Commentary

The Russian Government is displaying enviable optimism: According to its calculations, oil prices will increase 500-600 percent in April, although the overall level of prices will increase by no more than 50-75 percent.

In our view, this does not take account of a whole number of circumstances. Free oil prices could rise above the mark set by the government. On the one hand, the ruble expansion of the former Union republics introducing their own money will contribute to this, and, on the other, internal oil prices could receive an additional boost from export prices.

It is unlikely that the government will be able to implement a rigid financial and money-credit policy. The well-known "Memorandum" calls Russia's budget for the remaining nine months a deficit-free budget, although a 20-percent (!) excess of budget expenditure over revenue is already planned for the second quarter in the new budget message. It is unlikely that such a deficit can be covered without an additional emission of money. Indexation of the population's income is to start in April (proceeding from the dynamics of prices over the quarter)—which will also entail a new and substantial growth in budget expenditure.

A simultaneous sharp increase in the prices of energy carriers (and, thus, in production costs) and the closing of access to cheap credit for many enterprises will prove disastrous: Industry will "collapse," and unemployment will increase sharply. The position of the employed population will not be much better either: Under conditions of a tough monetary policy there will be a further reduction (although how much further can it go?!) in the size of real wages. The alternative to such a development of events is the lifting of all restrictions on growth in the mass of money and, thus, a financial easing of the "oil shock" to enterprises. This will make it possible to avoid mass unemployment, although the inevitable "payment" for this will be the fact that prices will soar out of control.

We are inclined to consider the Russian economy's entry upon a spiral of hyperinflation to be the most likely consequence of the upcoming liberalization of the prices of energy carriers. If the halting of production and mass unemployment are to be regarded as the alternative, then this is probably the lesser of two evils. In our view, it would be possible to avoid hyperinflation (or at least to try to do this) if the process of the liberalization of the prices of energy carriers were phased in, so as not to let prices get out of control by making sensible use of the tools of monetary policy.

Corruption Conference Examines 'Ailments'

LD2103175692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Video interview with V.P. Barranikov, director general of the Russian Federal Security Agency, by correspondent S. Medvedev at corruption conference held in Moscow on 19 March; from the "Novosti" newscast presented by Sergey Dorenko—recorded]

[Text] [Medvedev] An interdepartmental conference on protecting the interests of individuals and society from organized crime and corruption took place in Moscow today, and was chaired by Russian state secretary Gennadiy Burbulis. The government has arrived at the conclusion that these ailments, which at the moment do not seem to encounter any serious obstacles, can be fought off only with the help of united forces. It was decided that one of the main obstacles must be erected as soon as possible. That will be the legal basis. The full revision of new concerns, associations, joint ventures, licenses, and all other documents allowing business will begin with its creation.

Those who work honestly must support this action, its initiators think. This is only part of the planned offensive against criminality worked out today. [video shows interview with Barranikov] Rumor has it that corruption has already found its way into the highest echelons of power. Is that so?

[Barannikov] We discussed this particular question today. There is a list of measures which envisage certain check-ups and audits in this sphere.

[Medvedev] Do you have any data yet?

[Barannikov] Yes, we already have certain data.

[Medevedev] Well, it is sad.

[Barannikov] We will work on it.

[Medvedev] Could you tell us a little about the conference itself. How long will it remain a permanent one?

[Barannikov] We decided today that we will meet every Friday at 1500.

[Medvedev] So, the government has declared official war on the criminality. [video shows Burbulis, Primakov, Barannikov and other officials in meeting]

Stepankov on Combating 'Sophisticated' Crime

924C0933B Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Mar 92 p 2

[Mikhail Karpov report on remarks by Russian Federation Procurator General Valentin Stepankov: "'We Are Not Talking About Creating a New Cheka'"]

[Text] Concerns on the subject of a "new Cheka" have arisen in connection with the conference held on Saturday by First Vice Premier Gennadiy Burbulis; the proceedings revolved around the issues of combating corruption and bribe-taking in Russia's state structures. The conference was attended by representatives of various interested agencies. The decision was to give this conference a permanent status, in order to make it a center for decisions on issues related to interaction between the government, the Ministries of Security and Internal Affairs, and the procuracy in combating this phenomenon, as well as for handling certain specific cases. The latter especially put the public on the alert by evoking rather clear historical parallels with the Bolsheviks' extraordinary commissions.

However, in Stepankov's words, it was not the desire to bring in, proscribe, and punish that brought about such a decision. The procurator general of the Russian Federation maintains that it was necessitated by the disintegration of the structures which in the past combined and coordinated the efforts of not only the organs of law and order but also of all other relevant agencies. Although Stepankov said that he is aware that in the past this role belonged to the department of administrative organs of the CPSU Central Committee, and in doing so also denounced its forms and methods of operation, it appears to be at the very least strange that the Russian Government of reform is currently taking this function upon itself.

"Corruption is not judged by the number of proceedings initiated," said Valentin Stepankov in reply to a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA commentator's question as to why in such case the total number of processed cases of bribe-taking has decreased, "it is a complex phenomenon that is born of the state structures themselves." The most interesting thing is, however, that in a situation described by Burbulis as almost critical, no one has uniform statistics in this respect. According to Stepankov, this stems from the fact that, as he emphasized, "not every bribe received by an official should be counted as a crime related to corruption, and not every embezzlement committed by a group of three to five people is committed by an organized group of embezzlers." Law and order organs acutely need criteria that would allow them to classify such phenomena clearly.

By the way, the Russian procuracy is voicing serious complaints addressed to the government itself and even the Presidium of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, whose members, in the procurator general's opinion, should at least start by separating themselves from those commercial structures that were created with their help or participation and have been generously given preferential tax treatment. State officials should unequivocally resign from management or membership of them.

Due to considerable changes that have taken place in the approach to evaluation of certain types of economic activities, procuracy officials will have to change the psychology of perception of the very problem of corruption. According to Stepankov, "they should be mobilized not toward efforts to catch some snack bar attendant who cheats customers—which is the day-to-day work of the law and order organs—but rather toward the creation of a structure capable of combating the most sophisticated forms of corruption."

Naturally, in this situation it is hard to refrain from actions in the style of "let us start a national crusade against this." And, thank God, clearly precipitate proposals to create something akin to voluntary workers brigades for combating corruption have encountered decisive resistance.

Among other matters, naturally, the State Committee for the State of Emergency case currently occupies a special place in the procuracy's activities. Whether there will be an open trial of the putschists will be decided by the Russian Supreme Soviet; however, in the procurator's opinion there is nothing in the case that would make him reconsider an open trial. Stepankov believes that if the accused manage to get through all 125 volumes by May, he could easily get started in September. The "leaders" in reading the case materials are Starodubtsev, Tizyakov, and Yanayev; lagging behind are Lukyanov, Pavlov, and Kryuchkov, who have only gotten through a little more than 30 volumes.

It appears that just like other state organs of the Russian Federation, the procuracy is also preparing for 17 March. It will act on the basis of the decision of the Russian Federation Presidium on the suspension of activities of people's deputies of the former Union and all its legislative power structures on the territory of Russia. The procuracy organs, according to Stepankov, will conduct "the necessary educational work both in general and individually with those USSR people's deputies who either do not understand it or, in the rush of political ambitions, are trying to pretend that no decisions have been adopted in this respect."

Valentin Stepankov said that he wanted to warn former all-Union people's deputies not to let their activities overstep the boundary beyond which they would be subject to criminal prosecution under Articles 194 and 64 of the Russian Federation Criminal Code. "We will not allow new Dimitriy or Gorbachev the Impostors to appear," emphasized the procurator general.

Further on Shakhray's Political Assessment

PM2303110992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Mar 92 First Edition p 1

["Own Information" report under the rubric "Russian Government": "President Does Not Share Pessimistic Forecasts"]

[Text] The 19 March government session was chaired by President Boris Yeltsin. The first question to be examined was the political situation in the Russian Federation and the CIS. Sergey Shakhray presented a report on this.

He described the political situation in Russia as complex and to some extent critical. Radical reforms are being blocked as a result of passive and active sabotage, for which he blamed republic, kray, and oblast leaderships, "80 percent of whom have a CPSU background." According to Sergey Shakhray, this situation needs to be "blown away"—there must be new elections. The alternative, the state counselor went on, could be a positional struggle requiring coordination of the actions of the Supreme Soviet, the government, the president, and local organs of representative and executive power. But the difficulty, Sergey Shakhray stressed, is that in many regions the local leadership "is not in tune with our policy."

Sergey Shakhray made a positive assessment of the Federation Treaty and the agreement with krays and oblasts, but at the same time he noted that the transformation of a constitution-based federation into a treaty-based federation must not be allowed.

The state counselor particularly singled out the situation in Tatarstan, the North Caucasus, and the Armed Forces.

Sergey Shakhray does not expect anything good to come out of the upcoming congress of people's deputies. If the question of limiting the president's powers arises, this will automatically lead to the government's resignation, in his view.

Reacting to the state counselor's report, the Russian president stressed that the position spelled out by him is not the government's position. It is the position of individual members of the government, he stressed—those members, incidentally, who would like an assessment made of the president, parliament, and government alike. He urged not to panic and not to fear the congress, but to prepare for it.

The president described as "mistaken" the Russian Foreign Ministry's policy toward East European countries. These countries, once the USSR's closest allies, were forgotten by the Union leadership, but the Russian foreign policy department has also failed to move to strengthen ties.

Poltoranin Cited on Statehood

MK2003142592 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 20 Mar 92 p 1

[Report by Konstantin Katanyan: "Not by the Economy Alone"]

[Text] A routine meeting of the Russian Government took place yesterday under the chairmanship of Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin. Deputy Premier S. Shakhray gave a report on the political situation in the Russian Federation and the CIS. At KURANTY's request, Russian Federation Deputy Premier M. Poltoranin commented on these matters:

[Poltoranin] There was a discussion of the preliminary preparation of the issues which will be raised at the Russian Congress of People's Deputies. It is necessary to develop a conception of Russian statehood. The USSR has become a part of history and a new community, the CIS, has appeared. At present we are standing with one foot in the past and the other in the future. We have still not determined the path for Russia to follow, or which problems associated with the building of statehood are the priorities. One thing is clear, though, Russia will not conduct an imperial policy towards its partners in the CIS. S. Shakhray said that formation of the executive "pillar" of power is still proceeding unsatisfactorily. In any state if the executive's vertical lines of authority function properly, then law and order will be observed. But if they do not, there is no possibility of either law or order.

The government listened to a briefing from Agriculture Minister V. Khlystun, who noted the slump in production in the agro-industrial complex. In Khlystun's opinion, the resuscitation measures taken by the USSR and RSFSR governments in 1990 and 1991, including the mass writing off of loans and subsidies to the agro-industrial complex to the detriment of the budget, have deepened the crisis situation. These steps only increased the dependence of agricultural producers. The three-stage program for overcoming the crisis which has been proposed by the government is calculated for a four- or five-year period and envisions ultimately a complete transition to market relations, which should ensure an increase in the level of agricultural production.

Federation Treaty Signing Delayed Until 31 Mar

LD2203113292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1044 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, 22 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—The signing of the Federation Treaty will take place in the Kremlin on 31 March. This was announced today by the press office of Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin.

The treaty was originally scheduled to be signed on 25 March. An ITAR-TASS correspondent has found out from reliable sources that the postponement of the date for the treaty signing is due only to organizational problems.

The Federation Treaty has been already initialed by the leaders of the republics which are part of the Russian Federation as well as by leaders of krays and oblasts.

Tatarstan and Checheniya have refused to initial the Federation Treaty.

Abdulatipov Stresses Importance of Treaty

MK2103123592 Moscow FEDERATSIYA in Russian No 12 18-24 Mar 92 (Signed To Press 17 Mar 92) p 5

[Transcript "prepared by Valentin Mikhaylov" of briefing given by Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of Russian Soviet of Nationalities, in Russian Supreme Soviet Press Center "before the initialing of the Federation Treaty": "Gorbachev's Last Pear and the Federation Treaty"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] A briefing was held at the Russian Supreme Soviet Press Center before the initialing of the Federation Treaty. Ramazan Abdulatipov warned that unless the Federation Treaty is agreed and signed within a month—before the start of the Congress—the situation will get out of control.

[Journalist] Ramazan Gadzhimuradovich, the debate surrounding the draft constitution shows that there is a clear interdependence between potential approval of the constitution and the solution of problems of national and federative relations. Please comment on those views.

[Abdulatipov] The problem of so-called interethnic relations is the normalization of federative ties. Unless we regulate the latter, we will only exacerbate the complexity of the first issue. You cannot consider interethnic relations only from a confrontational standpoint, which both scientific researches and articles in the mass media have been guilty of doing lately. As a result a belief that is a long way from the truth is artificially formed in the public mind, namely that the situation is not and cannot be different. But what is actually happening?

The Federation Treaty was in preparation for about two years. Unfortunately, there is a very great deal of misunderstanding about the very nature of this document. People even try to compare it to the Union Treaty, although these are totally different documents. That talked about the formation and renewal of states, the definition of power and management structures, and the creation of public organs. But this document performs just one function, that of regulation—it vertically demarcates powers between subjects of the federation. At present in our country from bottom to top no one is answerable for anything but at the same time can do anything, possessing all powers at every level.

It is very important now to demarcate and regulate immediately and precisely the rights and duties of republics, krays, and oblasts at all levels, from bottom to top. And in particular, to demarcate the powers of the republics forming part of the Russian Federation and to define what each republic has jurisdiction over and what it is renouncing. In this way the outlines of power and management structures will emerge.

Now a few words about the specific situation surrounding the Federation Treaty. The idea was good: to pool the efforts of its elaborators and also of the Constitutional Commission in order to create a single document—an Agreement on the Demarcation of Powers Between Subjects of the Federation. However, the hastily compiled document, which was not coordinated beforehand with the republics, krays, and oblasts, only prompted another conflict. Almost all of them opposed this version, and many openly stated that they preferred the idea of the Federation Treaty, which had been initialed by 60 republics.

During my recent meeting with the Russian Federation president Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin asked a question that came as a total surprise to me: "Where is the Federation Treaty, why has it still not been signed?"

All I could do was thank Boris Nikolayevich for the reminder. But in turn I made a point of clarifying matters. When the Federation Treaty was "thrown out," many people emphasized if not directly then indirectly that the president "does not support" it. Although there is another point it is appropriate to mention here. The idea of the Federation Treaty, which has been ascribed to me, was actually expressed back at the First Congress of People's Deputies by none other than B.N. Yeltsin.

The analysis of the interdependence of the problems with which I began led me to the following conclusion. Unless we manage to agree and sign the Federation Treaty in the month remaining before the Congress, the situation will get out of control. Today relations between the Russian Federation and the republics within it can no longer be based on direct, horizontal treaties. This would make the state ungovernable and would turn the federation into a confederation.

To make sure that I make myself totally clear, I think it advisable to cite the following illustration. After the draft Agreement on the Demarcation of Powers was sent out to the republics we virtually received, by way of a "recoil effect," a "Belovezhskaya scenario" for the solution of the question at the conference of chairmen of soviets of all levels in St. Petersburg. In general the reaction was appropriate enough. Since the "center" is incapable of even preparing an acceptable document on the demarcation of powers, we will manage without it and sign an agreed version between ourselves, then send it to Khasbulatov and Yeltsin indicating what the republics are delegating to federal organs. We managed to prevent this "putsch" by an extremely simple method: The submitted version of the Federation Treaty, which I managed to get onto just seven pages, suited everybody. And today practically everybody expects a solution of the question of the Federation Treaty.

Sad though it may be to draw such analogies, I cannot help recalling a conversation with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev a year ago about the Union Treaty, when, without realizing it, I made a prophetic remark: "Mikhail Sergeyevich, if you wait until all the republics are 'ripe' for signing it, you may be like the farmer in the mountains who did not pick his harvest because he was waiting for the last pear to ripen, and as a result all he got was that single dried-up fruit, which was no longer even edible. You may be left in the same position unless you give up the idea of everybody signing the treaty at the same time."

We too must immediately begin the process before it is too late. Let whoever wants to do so sign the Federation Treaty. The others can follow the constitutional path. Although it is proposed to incorporate the Federation Treaty in the constitution.

What would I like to stress? There is no need to "chase" everyone into one treaty. It should stipulate only the functions without which it is impossible to preserve the federation. So far as the rest is concerned, each republic will decide itself what it can delegate and chooses to delegate to the federal organs. Maybe Tatarstan will choose to delegate five functions and Dagestan 15. Horizontal treaties will be concluded.

[Journalist] What is to happen to Russian Federation krays and oblasts?

[Abdulatipov] I was accused of "chasing" krays and oblasts into the Federation Treaty, although it "must" relate only to republics. When the final version made no mention of krays and oblasts, the same people are "surprised" at their absence.

The logic of my version was simple. A special law has been adopted for krays and oblasts. Moreover, the draft Federation Treaty provides that any oblast, kray, or republic can accede to it.

There is one more important fact to which I would like to draw attention. Whatever law we discuss in parliament at the moment, difficulties always arise because nobody understands into whose sphere of competence the law falls or at what level the specific legal relations should be regulated. These difficulties would not exist if there were a clear demarcation of powers. So, coming "full circle" in our discussion, I will end with the point I made at the beginning. The Federation Treaty is not so much the key to ethnic problems as a field for normal activity by power and management structures in a federative state, thanks to which all the other issues, including so-called interethnic issues, which have never prevented people of any nationality from living in peace and friendship, will automatically be removed.

Provisions of Federation Treaty Outlined

MK2103090192 Moscow FEDERATSIYA in Russian No 12 18-24 Mar 92 (Signed to Press 17 Mar 92) p 2

[Unattributed report: "Federation Treaty Initialed"]

[Text] The conference of presidents and representatives of the Soviets of the Russian Federation's constituent republics held Friday 13 March concluded with a significant event: 18 of the 20 Russian republics (except Tatarstan and Checheniya) initialed the Federation Treaty. The participants at the conference called this document a serious step toward overcoming the crisis in Russia's national state structure and in general in resolving interethnic problems.

The document is subtitled as follows:

"Treaty on Demarcating Spheres of Jurisdiction [predmety vedeniya] and Powers Between the Russian Federation's Federal Organs of State Power and the Organs of Power of the Russian Federation's Constituent Republics."

In the **preamble** the plenipotentiary representatives of the Russian Federation's constituent republics state their respect for the history, traditions, culture, language, and national dignity of the Russian Federation's peoples. They acknowledge their responsibility to preserve the historically established state unity of the Russian Federation's peoples and the integrity of its constituent republics and territories.

The purpose of the treaty is defined—to achieve and consolidate interethnic harmony, trust, mutual understanding, and the priority of human rights and freedoms regardless of ethnic background and territory of residence. The right of peoples to self-determination within the framework of the sovereign federative Russian state is confirmed.

The desire to qualitatively renew federative relations on the basis of a voluntary distribution of powers and the effective exercise of these powers is expressed, proceeding from the premise that, within the limits of their powers, the organs of state power of the Russian Federation's constituent republics exercise this power autonomously on their respective territories, guided by the decisions of the Congress of People's Deputies and the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation and by laws and other state acts.

According to the treaty, **the following areas come under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation's federal organs of state power:**

—adopting and amending the Russian Federation Constitution and federal laws, and monitoring compliance with them;

—the federative structure, composition, and territory of the Russian Federation; approving the formation of new republics on Russian Federation territory or admitting them to the membership of the Russian Federation;

—the protection of human rights, and Russian Federation citizenship;

—establishing a system of federal organs of legislative, executive, and judicial power and the procedure for the organization and operation; creating federal state organs;

—federal state property and its administration;

—establishing basic principles for federal policy and federal programs in the spheres of state, economic, social, cultural, and national development in the Russian Federation;

—establishing the legal bases for a single market; financial, currency, credit, and customs regulation, the issue of money, the basic principles of price policy; federal economic services, including federal banks;

—the federal budget; federal taxes and levies; federal regional development funds;

—federal power industry systems, the nuclear power industry, and fissionable materials; federal transportation, railroads, information and communications; space activity;

—the Russian Federation's foreign policy and international relations and the Russian Federation's international treaties; the coordination of the international ties of the Russian Federation's constituent republics; questions of war and peace;

—the Russian Federation's foreign economic relations and coordinating the foreign economic ties of the Russian Federation's constituent republics;

—defense and security; defense production; defining the procedure for buying and selling weapons, ammunition, military hardware, and other military property; the production of fissionable materials, poisonous substances, and narcotic substances, and the procedure for their utilization;

—the status, regime, and defense of the Russian Federation's state borders, territorial waters, economic zones, and continental shelf;

—the judicial system; the Prosecutor's Office; criminal, criminal procedure, and criminal enforcement legislation; amnesty and pardon; civil, civil procedure, and arbitration procedure legislation; the legal regulation of intellectual property;

—federal conflict law;

—the meteorological service, standards, calibration, the metric system, and calculation of time; official statistical and accounting records;

—Russian Federation state awards and honorary titles;

—the federal state service;

—other Russian Federation powers envisaged by the Russian Federation Constitution.

The following areas come under the joint jurisdiction of the Russian Federation's federal organs of state power and the republics' organs of state power:

—ensuring that the constitutions and laws of the constituent republics of the Russian Federation conform to the Constitution and laws of the Russian Federation;

—defending the rights and freedoms of people and citizens, and ensuring the rule of law, law and order, and public safety;

—the use of nature and natural resources of federal significance; protecting the environment and ensuring ecological safety; specially protected natural territories; the protection of historical and cultural monuments;

—general questions relating to training, education, science, culture, physical culture, and sport;

—coordinating the sphere of health care, protection of the family, motherhood, fatherhood, and childhood; social protection, including social security;

—taking measures to combat disasters, natural calamities, epidemics, and eliminating their consequences;

—financial legislation; establishing general principles of taxation in the republics;

—administrative, administrative procedure, labor, family, land, housing, water, and forestry legislation; legislation on mineral resources, and on protection of the environment;

—defense attorneys and notaries;

—protecting the age-old habitat and traditional way of life of small ethnic communities;

—establishing general principles for organizing local self-government;

—other powers envisaged by the Russian Federation Constitution in the sphere of joint jurisdiction.

All remaining powers are to be exercised by the republics' organs of state power autonomously.

The treaty envisages that federal organs of state power can, by agreement with republic organs, transfer to the latter the exercise of some of their powers and vice versa. The republic authorities can transfer the exercise of some of their powers to federal authorities.

Federal organs of state power cannot issue legal acts on questions that belong in the jurisdiction of a republic's organs of state power. If a republic's organs of power issue laws or other legal acts relating to questions that belong in the exclusive jurisdiction of federal organs of state power, and also if a republic's laws contradict federal laws issued on questions that belong in joint jurisdiction, federal laws are to be applied.

The document stresses that the relations between the Russian Federation's federal organs of state power and the organs of state power of the Russian Federation's constituent republics are built on a basis of mutual respect and mutual responsibility. Disputes are to be resolved using mandatory conciliation procedures under the system specified by the Constitution and laws of the Russian Federation.

In the period prior to the adoption of the law and the introduction of appropriate amendments to the Russian Federation Constitution, the demarcation of spheres of jurisdiction and powers laid down by the present treaty cannot be changed unilaterally.

After approval by the majority of republics, the treaty is to be submitted as a joint legislative initiative for formalization in the form of a law, the contents of which will become part (an autonomous section) of the Russian Federation Constitution.

Each republic reserves the right both to sign the present treaty and to regulate its relations as regards the demarcation of powers with federal organs of power and administration in line with the Russian Federation Constitution.

Kokoshin Views Defense Ministry Structure

PM2003103192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Unidentified ITAR-TASS observer report on interview with Andrey Kokoshin, corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and deputy director of the United States and Canada Institute; no place or date of interview given: "Expert's Opinion: What Kind of Russian Defense Ministry Is Needed"]

[Text] "The nucleus of the Russian Defense Ministry, the road to whose creation was opened 16 March by President Boris Yeltsin's decree, should in my view be a subdivision dealing with questions of the Armed Forces' development and the procurement of arms and equipment," Andrey Kokoshin, corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and deputy director of the United States and Canada Institute, stated in a conversation with an ITAR-TASS observer.

"This step," one of our leading domestic military experts noted, "would make it possible to remove the decades-old parallelism in the activity of military command structures. This was irrational even under the old system of guidelines, and now all the negative aspects have been multiplied by the material and financial difficulties the Army and Navy are encountering. In order to have the minimum necessary armed forces and to properly equip Russian servicemen, we will have to save every kopek. This is not only my personal belief but also the position of many experts—both civilian and military—with whom I have recently had an opportunity to discuss national security problems," Kokoshin stressed.

Interesting Experience Exists in the United States, Germany, Poland, and China

Obviously, when seeking the optimal structure of a military department's "think tank", it is worth turning to the lessons of the "revolution" launched by McNamara who, back in the sixties, created a department analysis, systems programming, and budget elaboration in the Pentagon, Kokoshin believes. This system, which operates with some changes to this day in the U.S. Armed Forces, helped the Americans to win the arms race and the "cold war." The creation of a similar analysis center in our country is possible, if efforts are pooled by a group of competent economists, weapons system specialists, and jurists. At the same time, the scientist noted, we must not disregard the most interesting experience accumulated in this sphere in Germany, Poland, other countries, and last but not least China, which has successfully implemented military reform.

The Russian defense minister, in the expert's opinion, should not be involved in the direct command of troops. These matters should be delegated to an organ for the operational command [organ operativnogo upravleniya] of national armed forces, staffed by professional military personnel. Its structure has still to be elaborated, taking into account both foreign analogues and the experience of domestic history and endeavoring to build the leanest and least expensive model possible. "The U.S. Chiefs of Staff Committee is a very interesting and productive coordinating formation," Kokoshin says, "but I am not a supporter of direct copying."

Cadres Still Decide Everything

How will relations between the Russian Defense Ministry and the existing organs for the command and control of troops—the CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command and General Staff—develop? It is impossible to solve the military department's cadre problem simply by transplanting a large part of the military structures under a Russian "roof," the scientist noted. Otherwise we are inspiring a very painful and unproductive process—both for the objects of reform and for the reformers. A new operational control organ should be quickly created in parallel, within the brief period of available time and without destroying the already existing CIS Joint Armed Forces General Staff structure, without wrecking people's fate, and without creating panic among general officers.

At the same time, he noted, the former Union Defense Ministry has superb cadres; in time some of them could form the backbone of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff and some could remain in the CIS Joint Armed Forces General Staff. There is no need to create in Russia a structure like the main commands of branches of armed forces in their traditional form, the expert stressed.

The Russian military department must itself directly study the problems of servicemen discharged into the reserve. Now, despite all efforts, they remain "homeless" since there is no state organ which would take total responsibility for this, Kokoshin went on. Meanwhile there cannot be high morale in the Army while the people serving in it are not sure that they will be treated as human beings once they have taken their shoulder boards off. It is quite obvious that without solving the huge range of problems associated with servicemen's status, it is difficult to talk of sociopolitical stability not only in the Army but also in the country.

What To Expect From the 20 March Meeting in Kiev

Will the publication of the president's decree on the creation of a Russian military department on the eve of the Kiev summit meeting not have an unfavorable influence on its outcome? Answering this question, Kokoshin stressed that, in his opinion, it is not the decree that could adversely affect the meeting's results but the weakness of the Russian-Ukrainian talks process. It is proceeding in fits and starts, and meanwhile the statements being exchanged are along the lines of the one Kravchuk made the other day on tactical nuclear weapons. "I consider this statement, to put it mildly, not very responsible," Kokoshin said, "but the point is that until recently we did not have a structure bearing personal responsibility for permanent collaboration with Ukraine on the entire spectrum of questions. Ukraine today is hardly our foreign policy's top priority, and unless our bilateral relations are systematized, the appearance of new "sore points" should be expected in the future. But I am sure that, given a normal talks process, 80-90 percent of problems arising between our states could be solved calmly. This mechanism has started to get on its feet literally in the last few days, but a great deal still has to done."

According to Kokoshin's forecast, at the upcoming 20 March meeting of CIS heads of state in Kiev "certain positive results could be achieved, but they are unlikely to be of a higher class than those in Minsk."

Media & Journalism

'Inevitable' Collapse of 'Empire' Viewed

MK2003120092 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 20 Mar 92 p 4

[Article by Vladimir Somov: "Collapse of Yet Another Empire. This Time the Newspaper Empire"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] When, out of habit, we look in the mailbox each morning many of us find it empty. The central newspapers are being published irregularly—three or four times a week. PRAVDA has gone to the wall. Bolshevik publications are going on about an offensive against glasnost and the dominance of monopolies. In actual fact what is happening before our very eyes is the collapse of yet another empire. This time the newspaper empire.

Even if there is just one cleaner left in the editorial office, the issue must still be published. For many decades that was the motto of Soviet journalism. Everyone piously followed it unshakably, from the most trivial plant newspaper to PRAVDA. They followed it and persistently, purposefully conveyed to the masses the radiant ideas of the all-conquering teaching of Marx and Lenin.

The threat of bankruptcy never hung over any newspaper. Unprofitable plant newspapers were funded by the enterprises. Lossmaking rayon papers received subsidies from rayon soviets. Provincial oblast newspapers, most of which were also unable to make ends meet, existed comfortably on subsidies from oblast soviets. But surely there were also profitable local publications? Of course there were. However, they were financially subordinate to the party exchequer, which grabbed their revenue to the benefit of the "leading and directing party." Brilliant, wasn't it? A lossmaking paper was the responsibility of the soviets, a profitable one was under the party's solicitous wing.

Income from the central newspapers (not only the party ones) flooded into the accounts of the CPSU Central Committee Administration of Affairs. Issues costing 2 or 3 kopeks brought in billions. Newsprint prices and charges for printing services and distribution were negligible. Hence the massive profits. In order to simplify expropriation of them, the central party papers were not even allowed to have their own accounting offices. The proceeds were successfully pocketed by the PRAVDA Publishing House accounting office. In the capital it was MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA that did this.

The distribution system was equally neat. Each central paper is printed in 40 or 50 cities. The matrices used to be flown out, but in recent years the galleys have been transmitted by phototelegraph via satellite communications. There is just a single centralized transmission center, of course—in the PRAVDA Publishing House. These services cost next to nothing, just like the production of printer's matrices for the central newspapers in local printing plants. The local printing plants naturally belonged to the CPSU. In recent years many of them were modernized and rigged out with imported equipment. The hard currency was allocated by the CPSU Central Committee Administration of Affairs, out of the state exchequer, of course.

The newspaper empire meticulously served the ideological needs of the totalitarian Soviet empire. The huge propaganda orchestra was conducted by the Central Committee. Leaders and members of the editorial collegium (not just of party papers) were appointed by the Politburo or Secretariat. Even correspondents were approved by that same department. The journalistic nomenklatura enjoyed all the CPSU's privileges—dachas, food, sanatoriums, transportation. PRAVDA correspondents were local princelings: They lived in the local elite's most prestigious blocks and were right next to the offices of obkom bosses.

The communist empire has collapsed. Both politically and economically. So the collapse of the newspaper empire is also quite natural. No one is going to supply it with free paper or print and distribute the print runs just for the love of it. PRAVDA and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA constantly say that the Russian authorities are deliberately stifling them—"independent," "free" opposition publications—and squeezing them out of existence via economic measures. Come off it, colleagues! The prices of newsprint, printing services, and distribution are the same for everyone. KURANTY too has to buy newsprint at contractual, exchange prices. Communications workers make no exceptions for the democratic press. We have no subsidies or financial injections.

We are by no means delighted at the market in the publishing sphere. But you have to face up to realities and harsh inevitability. Incidentally, KURANTY was registered by the State Committee for the Press as an all-Union publication. Now it is a Russian publication. We too would very much like to be printed in dozens of oblast plants and to have correspondents all over the place, including abroad.

But you have to match your appetites to your abilities. A single correspondent's bureau (even inside the country) costs hundreds of thousands of rubles [R] a year. The central papers each maintain 40-60 bureaus. Getting printed in oblast plants costs even more. We asked just one—the Tselinograd plant—what it costs to print PRAVDA (just 16,000 copies for the whole of North Kazakhstan). Given daily publication, around R1 million a year. Not counting newsprint costs. Multiply those costs by the 50 (or so) printing centers, and you get a substantial sum.

But it's astonishing! The people who are wailing about the central press make absolutely no mention of this expenditure and merely emphasize the high price of newsprint and communication services. Their pride and arrogance do not allow bolshevik papers to abandon distribution throughout the country. But what is left of them? PRAVDA has 84,000 subscribers in Moscow, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA has 47,000, and RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA has 19,000. Some plant newspapers at big enterprises have a bigger readership.

Complaining that B. Yeltsin's decree on protecting the press has not yet had any effect, TRUD said the other day that there is a need to preserve the single information space in the CIS, for without it the single economic, humanitarian space is unimaginable. That would appear to be a weighty argument. But it is by no means incontestable.

Indeed, why do the Americans, for instance, not worry about a single information space? The U.S. press is almost entirely regional and local. Only about 30 papers have print runs of over 250,000, and the overwhelming majority of publications have print runs of less than 50,000. The most popular papers (but they too are regional!)—THE NEW YORK TIMES, THE WASHINGTON POST—can barely muster 1 million readers each. But the local newspapers carry exhaustive information about events in the country and abroad.

Do you think U.S. publishers do not want to increase their print runs? But the market dictates distribution conditions. It is very expensive to get printed in several cities. In recent years only a few newspapers have begun to use satellite communications in an attempt to reach a nationwide readership. Those that can afford this luxury do this in conditions of an entirely civilized market.

But our central papers first carried out a subscription campaign at manifestly understated rates (even in relation to 1991 prices) in the hope of injections from party funds (they were very keen to outdo the democratic press in terms of their print runs!), and now they are clinging with all their might to the debris of the newspaper empire.

It cannot be preserved. I don't want to be a prophet, but I think very few of the former central daily newspapers will succeed in keeping afloat. In their present form, at least. It is a great pity that ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA was created in the image and likeness of the dying papers. It has already been allocated a subsidy of almost R300 million for the current year. Where did the Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium get the money? From the taxpayer. The editorial office shrugs its shoulders affectedly: It is up to the founder to allocate subsidies. Nobody would object if the founder earned the money himself. But by this method the single information space will cost us too high a price. And we have already experienced a press that is materially dependent on the authorities.

Regional publications could perfectly well preserve the single information space, as in fact happens throughout the world. TASS, which has lost its monopoly on information, is now supplying newspapers with perfectly good-quality, objective material. The dozens of new agencies in the capital and local agencies are capable of filling regional publications with all sorts of information. Of course, there will be a demand for it from local publications only when readers cease to rely on central publications. A resident of Atlanta is by no means less well informed about Washington news than a reader of THE WASHINGTON POST. Admittedly, hitherto our oblast and provincial city newspapers have eked out a very pitiful existence and the quality and content of articles has been inferior to the central press.

Regional publications too must struggle for survival. But without crazy distribution costs it is perfectly possible to survive thanks to advertising and commercial activity (advertisers prefer local papers).

Market relations are not a malicious invention on somebody's part, but a natural state of society. We will suffer many losses yet on the way to a normal market. This is an inevitable process. Journalism is suffering a deep crisis—like all other spheres of our life. Ultimately the market will put everything in its place. Readers will decide themselves what publications to read and which newspapers should live and which die.

What about the long-awaited decree on aid to the press? The government is in no hurry to implement it. Newsprint and the services of communications and printing workers will not become any cheaper after the establishment of free prices for energy sources (even if the appetites of the papermakers and distributors who enjoy a monopoly are curbed). So the collapse of the newspaper empire is inevitable.

Press Center Head Appointed

PM2003160592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Mar 92 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Appointment of Leader of Russian Government Press Center"]

[Text] Gennadiy Shipitko has been appointed leader of the Russian Government press center. The order to that effect was signed by Gennadiy Burbulis, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA Cuts Denied

PM2003152592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Anton Zverev: "KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA Print Run Still the Same"]

[Text] Yesterday's issue of IZVESTIYA reported that since 18 March the highly popular KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA has been temporarily forced to drastically reduce its print run—to 1.5 million copies—(this report was carried by RIA at any rate) due to the unprecedentedly high prices for paper, printing, and communications services,

We are glad to report that this, to put it bluntly, grim situation has not been corroborated. Ya. Yuferova, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's first deputy chief editor, explained at our request that in the foreseeable future readers would receive KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA as scheduled five times per week with its normal print run of 13 million copies. Nevertheless she pointed out that financial difficulties in March alone caused three issues to be canceled.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's leadership is vigorously seeking unique ways out of this extremely critical situation. The newspaper may shortly announce resubscription [perepodpiska] among its permanent readers in Ukraine, where newspaper distribution prices have risen higher than in Russia.

New Information Agency Created

LD2003194592 Moscow TASS in English 1814 GMT 19 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Vinnitskaya]

[Text] Moscow March 19 TASS—Yet another information agency—ROSINFORMBYURO—has emerged in Russia. It was founded by the Russian All-People's Union and a parliamentary faction "Russia", both standing in opposition to the present government of the republic.

Among the speakers at the presentation ceremony, held today in the Russian parliament building, were Sazhi Umalatova, Viktor Alksnis, Albert Makashov, Aleksandr Kraiko and other organizers of the sixth Congress of the USSR People's Deputies which took place on March 17 near the town of Podolsk in the Moscow region.

Participants of the presentation ceremony stressed that "the congress received a biased coverage almost in all news media" and gave to understand that ROSINFORMBYURO would reflect their own standpoint.

Radio Begins Airing BBC Live

LD2003113192 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1047 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By Martina Devlin, PRESS ASSOCIATION entertainment correspondent; "BBC Rules Russian Airwaves"—PRESS ASSOCIATION headline]

[Text] Radio Russia today began relaying live BBC programmes—the first time a radio station in the former Soviet Union has broadcast regular live programmes from abroad. Tapes have been used in the past but the authorities often jammed the airwaves if they thought programmes were subversive. The BBC Russian Service, a lifeline for ex-President Mikhail Gorbachev during last August's abortive coup, will be relayed on Fridays and Saturdays across 11 time zones from St. Petersburg to the Russian Far East. As part of the deal, Radio Russia broadcasters are to join the BBC World Service in London for a six-month secondment from next month.

Polish Paper Appears in Kaliningrad

LD2003124492 Warsaw PAP in English 1235 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Olsztyn, March 20—Several thousand copies of the first free issue of GAZETA OLSZTYNSKA-MAGAZYN hit the stands in Kaliningrad on Friday [20 March]. The Russian language edition of the newspaper devotes two pages to the Kaliningrad region. It prints advertisments of Olsztyn firms mostly dedicated to Kaliningrad businessmen interested in doing business with Poland.

Supreme Soviet

Autonomous Regions Initial Federation Treaty

LD2303110792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Report from Russian Federation Supreme Soviet session by parliamentary correspondent Olga Vasilenko]

[Excerpt] As usual on Mondays, committees and commissions of the Russian Supreme Soviet are working, where issues to be put forward at the Congress of People's Deputies are being discussed. Early this morning though, in one of the halls of the Russian House of the Soviets, the leaders of the autonomous okrugs—of which there are 10 in the Russian Federation—and of the Jewish Autonomous Oblast—gathered to initial the Federation Treaty. This is the third stage of work on the document, on the basis of which—as Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities, said—we are to assemble Russia. As you are aware, the treaty has already been initialed by the republics within Russia, the krays and oblasts. Performing this solemn act today—and the initialing did indeed take place amidst general festivity and applause and congratulations—Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet, expressed gratitude for the understanding of the importance of the issue to both leaders of the autonomous okrugs and leaders of those krays and oblasts within which they belong. Of course, Ruslan Imranovich added, one must cherish no illusions that all the issues will at once be resolved; but once there is understanding, then the hope is there. [passage omitted]

Filatov on Treaty Delay, Next CIS Meeting

LD2303120792 Moscow TASS in English 1146 GMT 23 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow March 23 TASS—The signing of the Russian Federative Treaty was postponed from March 25 to March 31 because many republics, territories and regions cannot hold sessions to discuss the issue in the remaining two days, Sergey Filatov, first deputy Russian parliamentary speaker, told the parliamentary presidium on Monday [23 March].

He also confirmed that the next meeting of CIS parliamentary speakers will take place as scheduled—on march 27 in Alma-Ata.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments Viewed

LD2003191292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1004 GMT 20 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] The Russian parliament's Commission on Legislation has circulated a memorandum, proposing seven basic changes and amendments to the current constitution of the Russian Federation. The amendments provide, in particular, for the replacement of the abbreviation RSFSR by the words the Russian Federation, and the abolition of provisions restricting Russia's sovereignty, connected with its incorporation into the USSR.

Furthermore, it is proposed to include in the constitution, as chapter 5, the declaration of rights and freedoms of man and citizen, adopted by the Russian parliament on November 22, 1991. At the same time, it is proposed to establish the position of parliamentary human rights controller.

The proposed amendments envision the Supreme Soviet's consent in the introduction or abolition of basic state offices in the executive branch, procedures for conducting international negotiations and ratifying international treaties, which up until now have been absent from the constitution, because Russia has not been a subject of international law.

According to the Legislation Committee of the Russian parliament, the constitution should also guarantee the rights of land users by removing, in particular, obstacles in the way of private farming. The amendments also provide for the possibility of particular constitution articles being suspended by the Congress of People's Deputies.

'No Plans' for Sanctions Against Tatarstan

LD2003185892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1230 GMT 20 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Moscow—Russian Federation leadership has no plans to resort to economic sanctions against Tatarstan.

Force should be excluded without doubt, First Deputy Chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Sergey Filatov said on March 19. However, according to Filatov, the Russian Supreme Soviet can't agree to any compromise today. The main thing is, he pointed out, to preserve our clear-cut attitude to the decisions of the constitutional court. We are deeply concerned that the measures taken by it be implemented without creating any precedents. The first deputy believes that the stand taken by the Russian Supreme Soviet and the constitutional court should tell upon the leaders of Tatarstan psychologically and that the international public and legal community will support activities of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation and the constitutional court. Should Tatarstan violate rights and try to enter the international arena, it will not be welcomed by the world community, said Filatov.

Filatov named control over the implementation of the Russian Federation's laws through the Russian Prosecutor Office among the measures that may be taken with respect to Tatarstan: We can and will warn all those who is going [as received] to take part in the referendum (election campaigns) that they will face administrative responsibility for activities prohibited by decisions of the constitutional court.

On March 19, vice-premier and state adviser on legal policies Sergey Shakhray told PF [POSTFACTUM] that the government had not considered economic sanctions against Tatarstan and would discuss such steps in no case: we took no measures to introduce an economic or bread blockade even with respect to Checheniya. Let alone this case. In addition, Shakhray noted that the governmental arsenal of measures to implement the resolution passed by the Russian Supreme Soviet on March 19 is very short.

Appeal for 'Tolerant' Dialogue in Dnestr Eyed

LD2003182792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1705 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Mar [dateline as received]—Today's joint session of the chambers of the Russian Supreme Soviet adopted an appeal to the Moldovan parliament in connection with the situation in the Dnestr region. Disturbed by the worrying situation in the region, which has led to deaths, the Russian parliament appeals to the warring sides and to all citizens interested in rapidly achieving a settlement to the conflict to turn the ceasefire announced by the protagonists into a permanent feature in stabilizing the situation. It also appeals for the sides to withdraw armed units from the combat zones.

The Russian Supreme Soviet considers that only a tolerant political dialogue between the parties to the conflict can provide a mutually acceptable resolution.

Addressing the parliament of the Republic of Moldova, the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation believes it desirable to complement the free economic zone status which Moldova is willing to grant to the Dnestr region with an appropriate political status that guarantees to the people of the region the right of self- determination should Moldova lose its status as an independent state.

Understanding the full complexity and ambiguity of the situation in which the servicemen of the 14th Army of the CIS Combined Armed Forces find themselves, the Russian Supreme Soviet considers that they should display restraint and not take any measures that might exacerbate events. The address to the parliament of Moldova stresses that the servicemen of the 14th Army and the members of their families should be protected from violence and attacks.

The Supreme Soviet declares that neither the government nor other authorities of Russia are linked to the involvement by Russian citizens in the events in the region. The official authorities of the Russian Federation are continuing to act to prevent such involvement in the armed conflict which, Russian deputies are deeply convinced, should be resolved only by peaceful means.

The Russian parliament offers Russian mediatory services to the opposing sides to achieve a rapid settlement to the conflict, and appeals to the parliaments of the other CIS member states to assist in this settlement.

Military Industries Conversion Law Adopted

LD2103193592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1631 GMT 21 Mar 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] Moscow—On March 20 the Russian Supreme Soviet adopted a law on military industries' conversion. The Russian Government has been instructed to put the main guidelines for Russia's military policy and a list of the fields the country's military-industrial complex engages in, which cannot be converted to civilian use, before the Russian parliament by March 31. Top priority conversion programmes should be presented to the parliament in the second quarter of 1992. The decision-making procedure on joint effort in arms production and conversion should be coordinated with the other CIS member states by July 1 this year.

All workers, found redundant as a result of conversion efforts after January 1, 1990, will be able to make use of the whole range of benefits the current laws prescribe for members of working bodies, employed at enterprises being privatized.

Presumably, two bills, on the state secret and on the defense programme, defense orders and the status of a munitions' enterprise, should be drafted in the second and third quarters of 1992, respectively.

Social Protection of Population Criticized

LD2003214192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1254 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Mar (TASS)—At today's joint session, the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation recognized the unsatisfactory state of affairs in the social protection of the population in the conditions of going over to market relations. It was decided that the Russian Government is responsible to a considerable extent for this. The decision of the Russian parliament says that "it did not implement a number of decisions of the Supreme Soviet."

The president of the Russian Federation was instructed to make it incumbent on the government to work out urgent measures aimed at strengthening the social protection of the population. A number of instructions were given to the corresponding commissions and committees of the parliament. In particular, they are to submit their proposals regarding the establishing of a minimum wage for the lowest-paid employees, the introduction of a state system of federal allowances for children, and the indexation of citizens' savings and the population's incomes.

Two Newspapers 'Singled Out' for Subsidies

PM2003163992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Mar 92 First Edition p 7

[Parliamentary observer Aleksandr Linkov report: "Individual Line. One Billion for KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA!"]

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet Committee for the Mass Media, Relations with Public Organizations and Citizens' Mass Movements, and the Study of Public Opinion discussed at its session the question of the mass media's budget in 1992. Huge sums are required in subsidies, running into the billions. It will all be taken from the budget, in other words this is taxpayers' money. Newspapers, which have found themselves squeezed by paper manufacturers, communications workers, and other monopolists, are unable to make ends meet on their revenues. Several publications, whose founders are the Supreme Soviet and the government of Russia, have been placed on subsidy. Others have asked the leadership to give assistance. There are 120 of them. It is planned to help them in stages, quarter by quarter, in order to assess the situation.

At the committee session, however, there was a quite sharp discussion of an individual line in the committee's draft resolution which states that the newspapers KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA and TRUD are each financed at the rate of almost 1 billion rubles through the end of this year. Why have only these two publications been singled out? At the session this was attributed to the newspapers' large circulations, particular popularity, and independent stance in their coverage of burning topics. Representatives of the said publications emphasized that they do not intend to be permanently subsidized and are themselves seeking a way out of this economic trap. These sums will help the editorial offices to keep going this year, and then they will be independent. Otherwise KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA would be able to produce something like 40 more issues, while TRUD is already producing its third issue in debt.

So, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA and TRUD want guarantees—1 billion each and for a whole year. For a comparison, let us say that ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, as a Supreme Soviet publication, has been allocated a subsidy almost three times smaller. Let us recall that that was whom KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA reproached with "satiety."

The opinions of the committee members were divided. As the result of a vote, however, the committee's resolution still retained the individual line relating to the two said publications. But it is possible to state with confidence that the question "Why have just two newspapers been singled out?" will surface again in other Supreme Soviet committees and commissions.

'Citizens Society' Faction of Deputies Formed

LD2203031392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] The Citizens Society, a new faction of deputies, is being set up within the Russian parliament. It has been initiated by Yuriy Sidorenko, Mikhail Chelnokov, Viktor Shinkaretskiy, and Vladimir Kamchatov who have left the Radical Democrat faction. They intend to take an independent, constructive stand. Among its plans the faction has a program for concrete deeds, assistance to projects of creating new production ventures and jobs, participation in organizing and distributing humanitarian aid. The faction is setting up its own fund—Citizens Society—to implement social programs.

Roundup of Mar 19, 20 Sessions Reported

PM2303100392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Mar 92 First Edition p 1

[Report by parliamentary observers Aleksandr Linkov and Robert Minasov under the rubric "Fourth Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Session": "Would-be Troublemakers Persist"]

[Text] The 19 March evening session began with a discussion of a question of no less urgency than the previous one: the Constitutional Court's submission in connection with the Tatarstan Republic Supreme Soviet resolution. R. Abdulatipov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities, informed parliament about the results of his 16 March visit to Kazan. During the session agreement was reached on recognizing the integrity of Russian statehood and retaining borders. The question of the delegation of powers, the utilization of state languages—Russian and Tatar—and dual citizenship was resolved. As R. Abdulatipov noted, they managed to retrieve something possible from the impossible.

After assessing the Tatarstan leadership's actions, Vice Premier S. Shakhray read out the text of an appeal to that republic's peoples from President B. Yeltsin on the subject of the referendum. It states, in part, that the Tatarstan leadership is seeking support for its policy, which presupposes a Tatarstan outside Russia. Responsibility for the consequences of the referendum rests wholly with the republic's Supreme Soviet and its deputies.

Tatarstan Supreme Soviet Chairman Farid Mukhametshin, who was present at the session, spelled out the republic leadership's position, stressing that the objective of the referendum is to strengthen sovereignty and give it a new content. There is no question of seceding from Russia as an autonomous state.

But parliamentarians were not satisfied by the Tatarstan Supreme Soviet chairman's explanations. They leveled serious complaints at the republic's leadership for ignoring the Constitutional Court resolution and for their policy as a whole. The discussion of this question dragged on late into the evening. We will report on the decision adopted in our next edition.

During the discussion of the agenda yesterday, 20 March, deputy Baburin proposed that the question of the transfer of Crimea to Ukraine in 1954 be included as a matter of urgency on the list of questions to be examined. There is no disputing that the deputy's choice was no accident: The point is that 20 March the CIS heads of state were meeting in Kiev to strain every sinew to preserve this frail organism. The majority in parliament assessed the proposal as explosive and exceptionally inappropriate and therefore rejected it.

The day before, 19 March, saw the unexpected appearance at the White House of former deputies of the former USSR—Umalatova, Makashov, Alksnis, Krayko, Avaliani, and Zhdakayev, members of the organizing committee to convene the sixth congress of USSR people's deputies, tried to organize a news conference. This sparked indignation among deputies.

Soviet of the Republic Chairman Nikolay Ryabov proposed that this episode be examined at a Presidium session and the question be submitted for examination by the Supreme Soviet. But Sergey Filatov, who was in the chair, noted: "There's something unscrupulous about this."

Vladimir Kuznetsov expressed perplexity that the president had appointed himself defense minister and demanded that the session examine the question. He also expressed anxiety at the "witch hunt" unleashed by the authorities, alluding to the government's intention to initiate vigorous action against corruption. To which Irina Vinogradova's reasonable riposte was: If witches have appeared, why not start hunting them?

Sergey Filatov reported that at 2300 hours 19 March the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet resolution on the Tatarstan referendum was conveyed to Tatarstan via two channels. In it the Russian parliament again proposed to the Tatarstan Supreme Soviet that it revisit the referendum question taking account of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court resolution. And it warned that the referendum results would not have juridical force.

After "limbering up" and approving the agenda, the Supreme Soviet again got down to discussing behind closed doors the draft law "On the Transformation of the Chechen-Ingush Republic Within the Russian Federation."

Regional Affairs

Runup to Tatarstan Referendum Examined

Media Pressure Noted

LD2103221392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Report by correspondent I.Shestakov, including remarks by Mintimer Shaymiyev; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] At 0600 this morning the [Tatar] polling stations opened. [passage omitted] By 1200 it had become clear that the referendum had taken place. By that time more than half the electorate had voted. Such activity among the population was caused not so much by the proliferation of pies at the polling stations as by the sensational nature of the referendum.

[Shaymiyev] The whole pre-referendum period proceeded under completely unjustified pressure. It is not even comprehensible. There were attempts to cast a shadow over the friendship of the peoples of our republic. Moreover, there have been cases of, well, a kind of mass pressure through the media, through unobjective coverage of what is happening in the republic. Moreover, a mass delivery of pamphlets was organized.

[Shestakov] Yesterday's statement by the Russian president did not have the effect it was supposed to. On that day Tatarstan television showed a two-year old Yeltsin speech in Kazan, when he called for a struggle against pressure from the center. [passage omitted]

[Shestakov] In the event of a positive result to the referendum, what additional powers will you receive as a president of a sovereign state?

[Shaymiyev] The powers of a president of a sovereign state. [video: polling station, voters inside register to vote; Shaymiyev seen voting; interviewed in close-up, pie with "no" on pastry top]

Deputies Group Criticizes Leadership

LD2003182392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1348 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Kazan—Coordinators of the deputy groups Soglasiye (Accord) and Narodovlastiye (People's Power): The leaders of Tatarstan claim they have never raised the question of Tatarstan secession from the Russian Federation, but these are empty words. The appeal to Russia's and Tatarstan's Supreme Councils made on March 19 also says that a year ago the republic refused to hold a referendum on instituting the post of the president of Russia then practically ignored the presidential election. Simultaneously a provision on the Republic of Tatarstan being a republic within the Russian Federation was dropped from the Tatarstan Constitution. Then an attempt was made to unilaterally subordinate the Interior Ministry and KGB of Tatarstan to the Tatarstan president. In December 1991 the declaration on Tatarstan joining the CIS in the capacity of a founder was adopted. The authors of the appeal declare that the referendum returns, due to the question being worded in a much too complicated way, will be determined by the commentaries of the republican leaders and the propaganda of the media that are predominantly in their hands. The appeal contains apprehension that these same leaders, when the constitution and other Tatarstan laws are being adopted, proceeding from the actual meaning of the referendum question, will show us that in fact we have voted for Tatarstan's secession from the Russian Federation and simply must adopt the constitution of an independent state . The authors of the appeal believe the Supreme Councils of Russian Federation and Tatarstan must finalize their relations conducting dialogue on a legal basis and proving their statements by deeds.

Bulletins Handed Out

LD2103113792 Moscow TASS in English 1056 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksander Krolikov and Nikolay Sorokin]

[Text] Kazan March 21 TASS—"We have never raised the issue of seceding from the Russian Federation and advocate the closest union with it," Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev told journalists after voting at the referendum on state sovereignty, which is held in the republic today.

Twelve percent of the republic's residents have cast their referendum ballots in the first two hours and one in three residents—in such rural districts as Chistopolskiy, Atninskiy, Tukayevskiy and Tyulyachinskiy.

Parliamentary and other observers recorded the first violations during the referendum. For instance, at polling stations in 36 and 37 in Kazan, two and even three bulletins were handed out to one citizen.

Observers in the Vorovskiy House of Culture found that some bulletins did not have the signatures of the chairman and secretary of the election commission.

The placard reading "Vote Only 'Yes'" continues to hang in the Kirov Palace of Culture.

No 'Serious' Violations Noted

LD2203185192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1708 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Kazan—2,134,271 people took part in the referendum, 61.4 percent of whom voted for Tatarstan's sovereignty with 37.2 percent against. 81.6 percent of the republic's citizens took part in the voting. 1,309,300 people voted for sovereignty, 794,200 against. 46.4 percent of Kazan voters supported the referendum with 51.2 percent voting against.

In the city of Naberezhnye Chelnyi, the figures were 60.8 and 37.6 respectively. The information was reported by the deputy chairman of the Tatarstan Supreme Soviet Aleksandr Lozovoy at a news conference for observers on March 22 in Kazan. The news conference was attended by observers from the US, Moscow, St.Petersburg, Ukraine, Yakutia, Chechen Republic, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, different regions of the Russian Federation and representatives of various national movements and organizations.

UN observer and Senator from the state of Illinois, John Nimrod, welcomed the Tatarstan people's participation in a just referendum. He stated: These free and open elections gave the people an opportunity to express their free will. We haven't registered any serious violations in the election procedure, said an CSCE committee member, Michael Oaks. A representative of the Tatar Diaspora Group made a statement appealing to the Russian Federation, the Commonwealth countries and the world community to recognize the referendum's results.

A representative from Yakutia, Yeremey Gerasimov, said that the results of the referendum in Tatarstan might have a colossal impact on the CIS and its republics. Some observers reported violations during the preparation and holding of the referendum. According to a representative from RUKH's Moscow Branch, Petr Perepust, it was only after appealing to the Supreme Soviet of the republic that on the morning of March 21 observers were allowed to visit a military unit stationed in the territory of the Kazan Kremlin. The Moscow branch leader of the Democratic Party of Russia, Valentin Poluektov, said: There have been attempts to stop our cars and accuse us of illegally transferring weapons and drugs, as well as causing a traffic accident.

President Shaymiyev Comments

LD2103152692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Today's referendum in Tatarstan, one of the autonomous formations in Russia, is the top event for the entire country. The point is not so much a matter of history—although Tatariya has been part of the Russian state, as you know, since 1552—nor even of economic ties. Russians make up nearly 44 percent of Tatariya, while 75 percent of Tatars live outside their republic. Will the rights of the nonindigneous population, Russians in particular, be fully guaranteed in the event that the outcome of the referendum is affirmative?

[Correspondent A. Barkhatov] Under a law of the Republic of Tatarstan, representatives of any registered political or public organization can be present at polling stations as observers to avoid violations of any kind, provided they have the appropriate authorization. Foreign observers are also attending, from Estonia and the United States. Among them is Michael Oakes, a representative of the Helsinki Committee for the Protection of Human Rights.

Tatarstan citizens of legal age with a permanent residence permit have the right to vote. The deciding number, I remind you, is fifty percent of all those who vote plus at least one vote. The question—Do you agree that the Republic of Tatarstan is a sovereign state and a subject of international law, which builds its relations with the Russian Federation and other republics and states on the basis of treaties in which they have equal rights?—requires a definite yes or no. Preliminary results of the voting will be announced tomorrow evening.

[Begin recording of M. Shaymiyev] It will show the will of the people. After all, the people come first. I think it is the highest form of demonstrating democracy. I have already said, and I say again, that the Tatarstan referendum for multinational Russia, as for many republics, is the way toward the renewal of Russia. [end recording]

Majority Say 'Yes'

PM2303114592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Mar 92 First Edition p 1

[Report by correspondent Dmitriy Mikhaylin: "Spring, Nawruz, Referendum"]

[Text] Kazan—A referendum was held in Tatarstan Saturday [21 March]. According to preliminary figures, with a total of 2,610,227 citizens on the lists, 2,134,271 people received ballot slips. Some 2,132,351 people (81.6 percent of citizens on the electoral lists) took part in the vote.

To the question "do you agree that the Republic of Tatarstan is a sovereign state and the subject of international law building its relations with the Russian Federation and the other republics and states on the basis of equal treaty?" 1,309,300 people (61.4 percent of those who took part in the vote) answered "yes," while 794,200 people (37.2 percent of those who took part in the vote) answered "no."

Those who answered in the affirmative comprise 50.2 percent of the total number of citizens on the voting lists.

On the eve of 19 March there were two sessions of the Tatarstan Supreme Soviet Presidium. The first led nowhere, but the second, which ended at 0010 hours, decided to convene the Supreme Soviet 20 March at 1500 hours. At the appointed time 117 deputies assembled, the quorum being 166. Later, during electronic registration, the figure 65 lit up on the board: The deputies of the "Tatarstan" faction advocating independence had decided not to register in protest against the holding of the session. Meanwhile Farid Mukhametshin, chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet, mounted the rostrum. The group of "Soglasiye" deputies left the auditorium, blaming the presidium of the republic's Supreme Soviet which, in the deputies' opinion, "has wrecked the session by apparatus methods." "The simulacrum of a session was needed to create the semblance of a response to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet resolution and the address of the Russian president," the "Soglasiye" statement says.

Meanwhile F. Mukhametshin told members of the "Tatarstan" faction and other deputies who had remained in the auditorium about his visit to Moscow. He assessed his meeting with Ruslan Khasbulatov as beneficial, saying that mutual understanding was found on the plane of the tasks of the referendum and its consequences. The meeting with Valeriy Zorkin, chairman of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, was defined as "an explanation of relations." F.

Mukhametshin denied accusations of separatism in the documents adopted by the Russian Supreme Soviet and president.

On the same day, 20 March, a conference of leaders of the opposition parties and movements was held in Kazan, which elaborated the tactics for operations for the next day and assigned observers. For instance, in various cities and rayon centers of the republic, there were over 200 observers from the Democratic Party of Russia. It is true that their opponents from the Tatar public center had over 1,000 observers in Kazan alone. Disinterested people were also present at the polling stations.

In Kazan at least there was something to observe: Many polling stations violated the law on the Republic of Tatarstan referendum—in some places leaflets were distributed, in others unauthorized people entered the booths to vote. But one way or another by 1000 hours about 80 percent of voters had already voted in the rural rayons while in the cities the figure was about 30 percent. And by 1200 it became clear that the referendum had taken place.

The day before the referendum reports were issued in Kazan that the republic's prosecutor had sent representatives to the electoral commissions. Oleg Antonov himself refused to give any information on this subject. Irek Atnagulov, his senior assistant, reported that the prosecutor had merely notified the central and district electoral commissions of the decision of the Russian Federation Constitutional Court. Ildus Galeyev, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, stated that the document speaks of banning the referendum.

On 21 March I toured several polling stations. For the third day there was real spring weather in Kazan, which everyone is enjoying, irrespective of nationality and convictions. The Muslims link their brightest hopes with the Nawruz (the new year according to the Eastern calendar). And it is only that the referendum has generated a reaction that is far from being so unanimous. The question put to the vote demanded an unequivocal answer from everyone—an answer sometimes the opposite of that given by his neighbor. And that perhaps was the natural real result of the referendum: For the first time in the republic's history its people were divided.

"The uncertainty which has appeared in our republic in recent weeks is the preliminary to even greater uncertainty in the republic's future and its mutual relations with the outside world. We have half-opened the door without knowing ourselves what is behind it..." said Ildus Sultanov, a Republic of Tatarstan Supreme Soviet deputy, the night after the referendum ended.

Checheniya Cites Tatarstan's 'Tangibie Victory'

OW2203160892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1457 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The parliament and president of the Chechen Republic have congratulated the leaders and people of Tatarstan on their "first tangible victory on the road to sovereignty and state independence." The authors stressed the point that the Chechens and Tatars "have much in common not only religiously and historically; we have common goals, too."

Isa Arsamikov, member of the Chechen parliament and vice president of the Caucasian Confederation, now on a visit in Kazan, has told IF [INTERFAX] that "if Tatarstan follows in Checheniya's footsteps, it will attain independence and thereby mark the beginning of the Russian empire's disintegration." In his view, the decision taken by the Tatars on Saturday [21 March] will help other peoples—in the first place, the Bashkirs and Kabardino-Balkarians—to begin working for sovereignty.

Khasbulatov Visits Omsk, Views Economic Woes

PM2303114592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Mar 92 First Edition pp 1-2

[ITAR-TASS report: ""Ruslan Khasbulatov in Omsk Oblast"]

[Text] "Russia can be extricated from the extremely grave socioeconomic crisis only via the preservation of its unity and integrity and civil accord"—that was the main theme of the speeches and meetings of Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, who arrived in Omsk Oblast on a working visit yesterday.

This region is distinguished by its highly developed agriculture and powerful scientific and industrial potential. It was therefore no coincidence that the first facility he visited was the biggest poultry factory beyond the Urals, a Siberian factory producing annually up to 10.6 million broiler hens, or 7,500 tonnes of high-quality high-nutrition meat, and around 30 other types of product. The factory workers and the agricultural enterprise leaders and private farmers who had come for the occasion all raised the same question: stopping the anarchy in equipment and spare part prices and preventing a drastic spiral in energy input prices.

"The Supreme Soviet has already adopted a decision on reducing by 50 percent prices for fuel and lubricants used for sowing needs," Ruslan Khasbulatov told a meeting, sharing the meat producers' concern. "There is evidently also a need to extend these benefits to other agricultural producers. I am increasingly convinced that the problem of deregulating energy input prices requires closer study in the context of the possible consequences."

The Russian Supreme Soviet chairman visited production shops and had meetings with workers and specialists at the Omskshina production association. But even this undisputed leader of our country's tire industry is in a disastrous situation today: There are no raw materials, individual components brought in from outside have rocketed in price by over 200-fold, and imported subcomponents are not coming in. And purchasers are tens of millions of rubles in arrears in payments for finished output. This is because most of them have become insolvent because of rapacious credit terms and the government's ill-considered economic policy with regard to the state sector of the economy.

Vyacheslav Solovov, chairman of the Russian Federation Central Bank Board, who also spoke here, reported that the Bank of Russia is already taking decisive measures to rectify past mistakes and improve the system for providing credit to certain sectors of the economy.

Chinese Border Residents Welcome Cossacks

LD2003164292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Report by Correspondent A. Abanosimova; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Video shows whip-toting Cossack walking beside a militiaman] At the moment, the Ussuri Cossacks are not directly permitted to guard the border with China. Since it is not regulated by Russian law and any talk about Cossack villages on border duty is not imminent, the villagers of Grodekovo have found themselves a specific job. In effect, they have assumed the functions of the people's voluntary patrols that have now died quietly away. Local residents have welcomed the Cossack patrols, and for good reason.

The once quiet rayon center has endured much from the invasion of speculators from both sides of the Russo-Chinese border. [video shows bags and cases piled up in a crowded square; one car overtaking and cutting across the path of another, which stops and was then rammed by the following camera car. Two Cossacks detain a man]. In this chase, everything turned out all right, and only our correspondents' car suffered, but there used to be far more serious incidents, and people had a taste of the Cossack whips. In a legal sense, the use of the lash is dubious, but effective. [close-up of whip] Everything has become noticeably quieter in the settlement of Pogranichnyy.

Cossack Detachment Departs for Dnestr

LD2103093692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0022 GMT 21 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Petrov]

[Text] Omsk, 21 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—The first half squad of Cossacks headed by Sergey Tupikov, field ataman of the second section of the Siberian Cossack host, has left Omsk to help the Dnestr Republic, the city newspaper "NOVOYE OBOZRENIYE" reported in today's issue. On their way they will call at Novocherkassk, which has become the formation point for Cossack units. According to Oleg Volin, ataman for the second section, this is the Siberians' reply to a call from countrymen in the Dnestr region, who failed to receive help from the CIS troops deployed there. The group that was sent is a kind of combat reconnaissance detachment. Larger contingents of Cossacks will go to this hot spot if required.

Sobchak, Team Draft Alternative Constitution

MK2103110592 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 21 Mar 92 p 3

[Report by Nikolay Andreyev: "Package From A. Sobchak"]

[Text] As we have already reported, the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms [RMDR] Political Council, whose board chairman is Moscow Mayor G. Popov, assessed as unsatisfactory the draft constitution prepared in the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and decided to propose an alternative. Just the day before yesterday a package arrived with the alternative draft constitution from St. Petersburg Mayor and RMDR Political Council Member A. Sobchak, who was charged with heading the working group. Such prominent legal scholars as Alekseyev, Kalmykov, and others worked on the draft along with A. Sobchak.

At yesterday's meeting of the RMDR Political Council G. Popov briefly characterized the essence of the alternative draft Russian Constitution. It consists of five sections: Russia's citizens; the Russian State; the president; power and justice; and municipal self-government.

Here are just a [illegible]w innovations from the draft. According to the draft the president cannot be the head of the executive and is elected by direct suffrage for no more than two terms of five years each. The draft proposes a bicameral parliament consisting of a Duma and Senate. The legal system is changed fundamentally—the lifetime election of judges would be introduced and the prosecutor's office would be under the Russian Supreme Court.

The draft rejects the Federation Treaty, seeing Russia not as a union of states like the collapsed USSR, but as a Russian state which all the national formations can join on a treaty basis. The draft would introduce guberniyas [prerevolutionary administrative units].

And one further characteristic detail: the preamble to the draft constitution is taken from the version of the constitution prepared by Andrey Dmitriyevich Sakharov.

The Political Council intends to present its alternative draft for consideration at the Sixth Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies. In the event of a refusal, the Political Council intends to present an initiative on holding a referendum about convening a Constituent Assembly to decide the issue of the constitution.

Time will tell how this will all play out. But one thing is clear: The future of Russia is being decided today. The constitution it adopts will determine the path it takes—either backward or forward.

Sobchak Describes Process

LD2203223892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Report by station correspondent Denis Gurinskiy]

[Text] Mayor of St. Petersburg Anatoliy Sobchak itends to table his own draft Constitution of Russia at the upcoming Congress of Russian Deputies. Our correspondent Denis Gurinskiy describes what made Law Professor Sobchak make a different draft from the official Russian basic law.

[Gurinskiy] Sobchak says he took two months to prepare his draft of the Russian Constitution in collaboration with several St. Petersburg and Moscow law theoreticians and political scientists. The final wording of the draft, according to Sobchak, is described as an independent juridical expert study in keeping with the law. The mayor of St. Petersburg also said the Political Council of the Russian Democratic Reform Movement appraised the work very positively and has sanctioned the tabling of the draft to the Russian Congress of Deputies on behalf of the Russian Democratic Reform Movement.

In an interview to a Radio Rossii correspondent, Anatoliy Sobchak pointed out that a number of factors led Sobchak to make his own draft of the Russian Constitution, above all the amorphousness of fundamental parts of the official draft prepared by Oleg Rumyantsev's Constitutional Commission. The mayor of St. Petersburg thinks the draft of Rumyantsev's group is strategically wrong because it lacks clear state law mechanisms regulating the future federative structure of Russia. In addition, Sobchak sees in the official draft of the Russian Constitution a lack of clear juridical statements on the new structure of ownership, the armed forces, and on the overall national agrarian system in Russia. In his draft, the mayor of St. Petersburg notes, we have maximally reflected the permissible degree of differentiation of powers between the federal and local authorities, and we have also organized the major elements of Russian state affairs, in keeping with the aims of democratic reforms.

Sobchak considers one of the most valuable advantages of his draft to be the articles on the so-called diagonal system of bodies of state power in Russia, which, in his opinion, paralyze the centrifugal tendencies inside the federation as they legislatively enable the structures of power to cooperate both with the higher and lower links.

The mayor of St. Petersburg could not, however, predict how likely it is that the Congress will ratify precisely his draft. However, he noted that President Yeltsin allegedly has a liking for a number of ideas in the draft.

Moscow Chairman Says Treaty To 'Avert Ruin'

MK2103105192 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 21 Mar 92 p 1

[Interview with Moscow City Soviet Chairman Nikolay Gonchar by Yelena Tarasova; place and date not given: "Moscow City Soviet Chairman Nikolay Gonchar: Treaty Will Save the Capital"]

[Text] [Tarasova] Nikolay Nikolayevich, on behalf of the Moscow Soviet you initialed the treaty on demarcating spheres of jurisdiction and powers between Russia's federal organs of state power and local organs of power. The treaty equates Moscow with krays and oblasts but says not a word about the fact that it is also the republic's capital.

[Gonchar] I am convinced that today there is no need for a special law on the status of Moscow. One reason is the future Federation Treaty, and another is the just published Law on Kray and Oblast Soviets and Kray and Oblast Administrations, which clearly stated that the law applies to Moscow and St. Petersburg. At least, the Moscow Soviet currently has no need of any additional legislation for its activities.

But the possibility that the city executive authorities will demand a law on the status of Moscow outlining demarcations between the functions of power of representative and executive organs cannot be excluded. However, the Moscow Soviet feels that such demarcations should be the same for the entire state and that in no case should any city or even the republic capital be singled out. Otherwise the preconditions for the formation of autonomous intrastate structures will arise.

[Tarasova] So was equal status with krays and oblasts in the Federation Treaty an initiative by the Moscow Soviet?

[Gonchar] It was a suggestion by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium that the Moscow Soviet accepted.

[Tarasova] And what will this treaty give to Muscovites?

[Gonchar] It will give them what any effort to preserve the republic from disintegration would give them—it will avert ruin. Moscow, you see, is very dependent, it receives a lot from outside. So without an equitable treaty with Russia's krays and oblasts Moscow could not survive.

Komi Supreme Soviet Approves Federation Treaty

LD2003230492 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1640 GMT 20 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Syktyvkar—On March 19, the Supreme Soviet of the Komi SSR approved the draft federative treaty initialed on March 14 and elected commission to sign the treaty on behalf of the Komi Republic. A number of representatives from the Supreme Soviet's permanent commissions as well as chairman of the committee revival of the Komi people Valeriy Markov spoke against the signing of the treaty. According to them, the draft fails to comply with the declaration on sovereignty of the Komi SSR and distribution of property among the Russian Federation and the Komi SSR. Nevertheless, 103 deputies voted for the signing of the treaty, with 15 against and 7 abstained. Komi SSR Deputies Yuriy Spiridonov, Vyacheslav Khudyayev and Alexey Grishin were elected members of the commission.

Komi Forms Ministry for Press, Information

LD2003145792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Report by correspondent Yevgeniy Kunetsov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Administrative news from the provinces: The deputy chairman of the Komi Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet has signed a decision on the formation of a Ministry for the Press and Information for this northern republic. Many journalist collectives see this decision as yet another instance of the self-proliferation of red tape in Komi. Nor do they hide the fact that it stems from the desire to find lucrative jobs for that part of the local Communist nomenklatura, now retired, that has still not found itself something to do. Many have grave fears that what is being conceived is a government body for political censorship of information, since the new ministry can do nothing actually to help the press. It has no control over its own finances. On the contrary, it is to be maintained by funds allocated by Russia's central authorities.

In the context of the Komi government's secret opposition to Russian reforms, it is noted with indignation, the local authorities are gaining an opportunity to create their own policies with someone else's money. Staff at republican radio and television are categorically opposed to the new ministry. They have said that it exists only on Russian funding and is subordinate only to Russia. If the decision of the local Supreme Soviet deputies is not revoked, they will go on strike on 25 March. [video shows Kuznetsov in office, other journalist at work, various unidentified buildings, an unspecified demonstration in the distance, magazines on sale, journalists' statement on wall]

Germans Still Aim for Restoration of Volga

OW2203161592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1457 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The second congress of Germans of the former Soviet Union, which closed in Moscow today (March 22), has passed a resolution censuring the Russian Government for its "virtual refusal to take effective measures to restore German autonomy."

The document emphasizes that the program for the stage by stage restoration of the republic of Volga Germans set out in President Boris Yeltsin's decree of February 21, 1992, cannot be carried out until the distant future.

The resolution calls on the governments of Russia and Germany to take all necessary measures to enable every German on the territory of the former USSR wishing to emigrate to Germany to do so within three to five years.

The congress approved of the agreement between the interstate council for the rehabilitation of the Germans of the former Soviet Union and the general staff of the CIS land forces on the exchange of accommodation between immigrants from the CIS coming to Germany and CIS servicemen leaving it.

The congress welcomed Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's suggestion that Germans settle down in the southern regions of Ukraine except the Crimea. At the same time, the congress pointed out that German-populated regions in the former USSR could not be an alternative to the republic on the Volga the restoration of which remains a strategic aim for the ex-Soviet Germans.

The congress called on the UN to regard the Soviet Germans as victims of genocide and appealed to all interested countries to help them in their cultural revival.

Great Volga Plenary Council Meets

LD2003232692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 2047 GMT 20 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Volgograd—On March 20, high officials from 10 Volga regions held a meeting of the Plenary Council of the Great Volga Association in Volgograd.

The Great Volga Association covers all areas along the Volga River. These meetings have a special significance on the eve of a Congress of Russian People's Deputies and against the background of a rising discontent, in the regions, over the economic policy of the federal government.

The meeting was attended by high officials from Nizhniy Novgorod, Penza, Uliyanovsk, Samara, Astrakhan, Saratov regions and Kalmyk, Mordovian, Chuvash and Mariy republics. Russian Government experts guardedly treat actions of inter-regional associations of the Great Volga kind as Russia's disintegration processes have lately become noticeably more active. They are underlaid with aspirations for an economic rapprochement between regions and a pursuit of their own policy, as opposed to the Russian center. Russian Government experts believe that this economic integration of regions is potentially threatening to destroy the economic space of the entire federation and may result in a political disintegration of Russia. The fact that Russian Minister of Economy Andrey Nechayev attended the meeting is evidence of the great attention with which the federal government watches the processes. It was noted at the meeting that the Volga area enjoys a number of advantages in its economic development, as compared to other Russian areas, but all these relative advantages concern only the sphere of the production of production means, i.e. the manufacture of the so-called group of commodities. In other aspects, the state of the economy of the Volga area, [illegible] of all other areas, may be referred to as deplorable. The local authorities cite unreasoned, or even destructive, from their point of view, actions of the Russian center in the sphere of privatization, taxation and subsidy policy as the cause of this situation. Consequently, areas begin to rely only on their own forces.

The proposal to set up a regional Volga area innovationist fund, voiced at the meeting of the Great Volga Association, has developed into an idea of elaborating a common socio-economic program for the entire Volga area. In addition, it was decided to send the draft program for a working-over to Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's economic and political research institute rather than to any expert structures working for the Russian Government or having close links with it.

Other decisions adopted in Volgograd by the Plenary Council of the Great Volga Association were also evidence of the regional authorities' reliance on their own forces. In particular, the council approved creation of an ecological and centralized fund of Volga area resources. An address to all administration heads in the Russian Federation was approved, stating the necessity to create a united association of heads of administrations from regions, territories and republics of Russia. The address was initiated by the Nizhniy Novgorod delegation which was notable for its activity at the meeting. The association, according to the participants in the meeting, should concern with an elaboration of a common local pricing, taxation and credit policy throughout Russia.

The federal government continues to consider a further price liberalization as one of its chief tasks. Therefore, the attitude towards the Russian center's pricing policy becomes an important factor for the situation of Russia as a whole and, in particular, for the viability of the federal government itself. The more so, as the release of prices of petroleum products and power materials, planned by the Russian Government, must result in considerably increased prices of food and all consumer commodities. The report by Russian Minister of Economy Andrey Nechayev was devoted to these issues. As a result, the representatives of power structures from the Volga area approved an address referring to the situation in economy as disastrous and accusing the Russian Government of failure to take real measures to bring the economy out of the crisis. They called on the president and government of Russia to postpone the liberalization of prices for power materials from April, as scheduled by the government, until a later period, following the spring field works and the heating supply season, and do it in a more gradual manner.

Besides, the representatives of power structures from the Volga area put forward the following demands to the president and Government of Russia: To revise tariff agreements in basic sectors of the national economy, grant republican governments and regional administrations the right to issue licences for 10 per cent of the goods produced in their territory, cancel customs duties for import and export of finished goods.

Buryatia Prepares Draft Agreement With Russia

LD1903234692 Moscow TASS in English 1254 GMT 18 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Trofimov]

[Text] Ulan Ude March 18 TASS—Economic relations between Russia and the subjects of the Federation should develop as a bilateral dialogue, Iosif Pavlov, chairman of the Expert Council for Economic Affairs at the Buryat parliament, believes.

He said at a news conference today that Buryatia (a republic in the Baykal region, integrated in Russia) cannot imagine itself outside Russia. Russia should be united, but this notion envisages divisibility. Relations with the republics, integrated in the Federation, should be based on intergovernmental agreements and treaties. This should be recorded in the new Russian constitution by recognising the status of nations of the former autonomous republics as subjects of the Federation.

Pavlov told journalists in detail about the draft agreement on economic relations between the Russian Federation and Buryatia. The document recognises the inalienable right of each of the sides to economic independence. The main principles of their relations include equality, mutual advantage, the observance of international standards, mutual assistance and the renewal of relations. At the same time, signatories to the agreement will reiterate the expediency of the creation of common economic space, the observance of common principles of the implementation of the economic reform, of the monetary, credit and financial policy. The draft agreement will be discussed at the March session of the Buryat parliament.

International Affairs

President Kravchuk Discusses CIS Meeting

LD2203130492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0845 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Interview with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk in Kiev by Igor Malashenko in the Ostankino studio in Moscow; from the "After the Kiev Meeting" program—live]

[Text] [Malashenko] Good morning, esteemed viewers. As you know, the latest meeting of the leaders of the countries of the Commonwealth took place in Kiev. Today we have an opportunity to ask Ukrainian President Leonid Makarovich Kravchuk a few questions about the results of the meeting. Good morning, Mr. President.

[Kravchuk] Good morning.

[Malashenko] If I may, I would like to begin with a general assessment of the meeting in Kiev. Unfortunately, it has become traditional that on the eve of every meeting predictions appear in the press that it is destined to be the last. The Kiev meeting is no exception. So I would like to know how you assess the present state of the Commonwealth and how the situation has changed since the Kiev meeting.

[Kravchuk] First, one should reflect a little on the reasons for those predictions. Why do they appear? After all, if the Commonwealth were working, if its decisions were being carried out and people could see that it was working, I am convinced that we would not have these predictions and doubts.

The Kiev meeting has shown that the Commonwealth can adopt documents—as was shown, incidentally, by the previous meetings in Minsk and Alma-Ata. We judge the Commonwealth by the number of documents adopted. I have counted: At the meetings which have taken place, more than 70 documents have been adopted. But the trouble is that none of them are in force and none of them are being carried out. I am not exaggerating; the leaders of the other states can confirm this. I said it in Kiev, in front of journalists.

What is there that is positive about the Kiev meeting, judging by—I stress—the documents? First, the states that have decided to establish unified armed forces have decided to set them up through a legal process. Second, we adopted a common document for all the states, which Ukraine signed, on material and technical support for the troops. Now we have the documents adopted in Minsk on legal and material support for servicemen and the document signed in Kiev on material and technical support, including armaments, for the troops.

I consider these two documents to be of colossal importance. They made it possible for the armed forces and servicemen to work with the guarantee that they will be given the tools. That is the first thing. The second is that we adopted a very important document concerning the legal status of borders.

A memorandum was signed in Kiev on servicing debts; all the states signed it. Ukraine associated itself with the collective responsibility for servicing the debts under the new conditions of the operations of structures, including banking structures.

We managed to adopt two documents—very significant ones, I think—on assessing the situation in the Dnestr region and on a mechanism for possible actions to be carried out in the Nagorno- Karabakh autonomous oblast, given the consent of Azerbaijan and Armenia. In other words, we put forward a mechanism for assistance and participation, including the participation of interethnic forces. We also adopted a common document on such forces which defines their status and their possible use. We also adopted some economic documents and gave some instructions.

As for Ukraine—and I think not just for Ukraine—we have some regrets that we did not adopt two very basic documents. The first one, I think, is the document which we called a memorandum on deported peoples and the rights of national minorities. It is fundamentally a very significant document. Ukraine proposed it for the second time, but for some reason it did not get through. Other states do not agree with it.

We also did not adopt a document which is extremely important for all of us—on the issue of dividing up the property, assets, debts, and all those things connected with the former Soviet Union. Russia blocked these matters, evidently with some reasons and grounds for doing so. I do not wish to analyze them in this particular case. But the first issue, and especially the second one, question fundamental concepts like justice, equality of rights, and other principles which lie at the basis of any community and any commonwealth. When these principles are not fulfilled, inevitable complications emerge.

[Malashenko] Mr. President, our TV viewers evidently judge the results of meetings not merely by the amount of documents signed but mostly by whether there are any positive changes in their lives—unfortunately, they are not yet taking place—after meetings of this kind. The difficulties here are evidently connected to the absence of a mechanism which guarantees the implementation of adopted decisions. You said that none of the decisions have yet been executed. How can one achieve the implementation of these decisions?

[Kravchuk] I agree, but if the viewers judge that I agree with you in respect to the results, and if one's approach is in accordance with this very principle, then during the 100 days of the Commonwealth's existence—and the three states set it up at Belovezhskaya Pushcha on 8 December, just a little over 100 days ago—the situation has considerably deteriorated over the 100 days. [sentence as heard] A large-scale war has already broken out on the soil of Azerbaijan. There are also very complex military-political problems on the border of Azerbaijan and Armenia. Blood is being shed in the Dnestr region. The economy has been moving not simply toward a crisis; it is already moving and falling into the abyss.

The Commonwealth, therefore, has not found the possible actions and mechanisms to resolve these very complex political and economic issues, including those pertaining to the armed forces. This means that what you have been saying, Igor Yevgenyevich, is correct. It is a matter of a mechanism being absent. There is no mechanism; it has not been created.

But that is not the only issue. Two factors are clashing here: the process of creating our own states, and the interests of our peoples, because the world is indeed directed by interests. If one considers this issue in a basic way, each people bases its actions on the interests of its own people, as do the leaders elected by the people, if they are trusted.

Therefore the creation of national states and the satisfying of the interests of one's own people do not in this instance coincide with the interests of the Commonwealth as a whole. I would even say that the interests of one's own state come first. The Commonwealth, in its actions, comes second.

There is, however, the question as to why this is so. If the Commonwealth had resolved even a single issue....[changes thought] For instance, when we created the Commonwealth we decided that it would perform two tasks: first, the civilized divorce of the states, so we would not find ourselves in a very grave situation amid the wreckage of spontaneous disintegration; and second, the development of a mechanism for action on those problems common to all of us. We have resolved neither the first matter nor the second. Consider just the problem of prices, and others. There has been no coordination on them between the states.

Russia, the leading state in our Commonwealth—I am in favor of equality, but political logic is such that there is a leading state—Russia is acting autonomously on these questions, and everybody should move after it, move spontaneously, step for step, tread for tread. That can never have a positive result because it will inevitably suppress the interests of other states. There is no equality, there are no other factors which would promote working together, and there is no mechanism.

On a number of questions the Commonwealth is only an umbrella, a cover under which every state takes actions which are considered advisable in terms of the interests of its own people. I do not take offense at Russia, Belarus, or Kazakhstan. Russia may be as it is today, and its leadership as it is today, because it defends and will defend the interests of the Russian people. But we are equally entitled to defend the rights of our people and to act accordingly. That must simply be taken as an objective inevitability.

[Malashenko] All right then, how can these interests, which contradict each other, be balanced? You said that the Commonwealth has so far not even fulfilled its first task, a civilized separation. We can probably talk about some concrete example, for instance the unified armed forces or the armed forces of the former Soviet Union. For example, President Yeltsin described the legalization of the unified armed forces as the main achievement of this meeting. You also noted that it was a significant decision.

At the same time, according to our information Ukraine did not take part in signing these documents. What kind of approaches to this did you encounter in Kiev, and what is the state of affairs concerning the armed forces?

[Kravchuk] I did indeed assess it as an uninvolved party because Ukraine did not take part in signing these documents. According to its own concept and according to a decision of all the states of the Commonwealth, Ukraine is setting up its own armed forces. But in this particular case I agree with Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin in saying that the states that have united have resolved their tasks. We will see how these decisions will be implemented. They did indeed resolve the legal aspect. Ukraine took part in tackling issues that affect it. I named them. I think—I do not want to be a prophet in my own land—but for some reason I am convinced that the other states will be also setting up their own armed forces.

The first signs of this can already be seen, by the way. Russia has established its own Defense Ministry and is in the process of setting up its own armed forces; a state cannot exist without the attributes of statehood. Whatever is said, the objective process is such that, sooner or later, armed forces will be created in every state. But I repeat: This does not exclude the possibility of uniting our common interests.

[Malashenko] The issue of nuclear weapons, tactical nuclear weapons in particular, emerged on the eve of the Kiev meeting. The removal of those weapons from Ukraine was suspended, as we understand it, until the establishment of an international commission supervising the process of their withdrawal and destruction. Was this decision met with understanding? How was this problem discussed in Kiev? How long might this transitional process take? In other words, do you have any real deadlines for the establishment of such a commission and for the work of this new mechanism to begin?

[Kravchuk] We agreed with Boris Nikolayevich in Kiev that this commission will be set up in the near future. I am talking about a commission which will consist of representatives of the four states—Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan—in accordance with the Alma-Ata agreements. The second stage—the participation of international observers—is a more complicated one. We will have to turn to other states. This process will not be very protracted. But I will be able to reply to this only after the commission provides information on whether it is true that the tactical means which are being withdrawn from Ukraine are destroyed.

I just would like to say that, as far as this matter goes, Ukraine has not changed its fundamental concept. But we have a great responsibility before the world and the peoples for when and where the issues of the destruction of nuclear arms are tackled.

The mass media reports some fact every day. Somewhere they discovered uranium and are selling it, somewhere else something else is happening. I am afraid that it soon could be discovered somewhere that a tactical weapon was sold. And then....[Kravchuk changes thought] This tactical weapon has its own serial number, and I never would want the entire world community to learn that this tactical weapon was situated on Ukrainian soil. So, that is what led to our decision.

[Malashenko] Mr. President, interests common to the Commonwealth members evidently are not just the safe monitoring of nuclear weapons, but also the cessation of the bloody conflicts taking place in Transcaucasia. The Dnestr region also is on the verge of such a conflict. Unfortunately, they also might arise in other regions. From your point of view, will the decision to set up interethnic forces be executed? Will they become an effective instrument in stopping conflicts of this kind?

[Kravchuk] I believe that this is a realistic task, if these forces avail themselves of the UN's international experience. But, if there is an attempt to turn them into a force for exerting police pressure, then they will not perform their task. Before they adopt this common document on the principles for setting up these forces, each state naturally will submit this issue to its parliament for ratification. Parliamentarians may question the aims and functions for which our sons are being sent there and whether they will return alive and healthy.

All this needs to be regulated very well so that these questions do not arise. On the question of whether there is a need for unified action by the Commonwealth to resolve conflicts, I would say that, yes, there is a need.

[Malashenko] Do I understand correctly that all the Commonwealth member-states agreed to take part in these interethnic forces, including Ukraine?

[Kravchuk] Yes, but Ukraine signed with the reservation that it would make a final decision after the issue is considered in parliament.

[Malashenko] Mr. President, you mentioned that the Kiev meeting did not manage to finalize the issue of dividing the property of the former Union or the issue of legal succession. Nevertheless, the economy in some way is continuing to function and decisions need to be made. The banks, embassies, and so on need to operate. How will this be implemented in practice, when no legal basis has been created? The division will proceed in one way or another, but how will it proceed without the adoption of decisions by the leaders of the states?

[Kravchuk] This issue is of great concern to us. At present this is a hindrance for the states politically, diplomatically, and in other ways. Ukraine has been recognized by over 100 world states. We now have established diplomatic relations with almost 60 states and we need to set up our embassies and our foreign organizations. We are unable to do so. We are unable to go to the world public with the truth that exists in Ukraine.

But how one assesses this truth is another matter. It is our right to relay this truth to the world community. At present, it is being presented in a distorted fashion. The representations working abroad actually are former missions of the former Soviet Union which have been transferred automatically to Russian jurisdiction. Naturally, they continue to work for Russia. While working for Russia, they do not always represent the interests of Ukraine in an objective way. I made a slip of the tongue here; I meant the position of Ukraine.

We have thousands of examples that prove that our position is being distorted deliberately to show Ukraine in a disadvantageous political light which is of no benefit to Ukraine. We are very worried about this. We are in favor of a just solution to this issue. But, as our great poet Taras Shevchenko, wrote: Might is right. In this instance, that applies to Russia.

[Malashenko] Mr. President, its seems like journalists, not just diplomats, can and should convey information about the position taken by a certain state. As far as we understand the situation, a step was taken in Kiev in the direction of maintaining and developing a single information space for the Commonwealth on the vast territory in the center of Eurasia which previously was occupied by the former USSR. Leaders of governments have been instructed to take some measures. What precisely was discussed and what precisely was decided? What steps can we expect to be taken in this sphere in the near future?

[Kravchuk] I like the beginning of what you just said. It is true that the mass media should distribute information. But the problem is that there are no representatives of the Ukrainian mass media abroad because they never existed before. At this time, we do not have the capabilities in terms of accommodating them and supplying them with the necessary means of information. That is why our interests, or our positions, are represented by the former central mass media or the Russian mass media in this instance.

If we take into account the fact that Ukraine has become an object of special attention on the part of this mass media lately, one should notice that not a single day or hour passes without Ukraine being mentioned by the mass media. Different things are being said about Ukraine, but it is being done with some definite emphasis. That is why our position has not been represented clearly. That is why we are counting on Ostankino Channel 1. By the way, this instruction is the second of its kind. It was given in Minsk and has now been given again in Kiev. In situations in which it is difficult to decide something, instructions are given in order to get out of a dead end.

What is the main issue here? This channel should represent the interests of all the states. We are ready—Ukraine proposed the initiative for the creation of such a channel—to agree that every single state receiving the channel also should agree to put in a certain amount of money. On the basis of what takes place in the states, this channel should distribute objectively information to the general public as well as to the world community. Such an agreement does exist. In this instance Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin—here I mean Russia—supports the creation of such a channel.

Let us hope that it will be set up and that all the interested parties will contribute the necessary material and other means and will use their intellectual potential for an objective presentation of this or that state to all the public.

[Malashenko] What is the next step after the meeting in Kiev? What decisions are being prepared for the next meeting, and in what fields? What should be resolved first of all? Will any steps be taken on the creation of a mechanism to work out and implement decisions, a capability which—as we understood from your words today—the Commonwealth lacks?

[Kravchuk] First, we established a commission which will offer proposals concerning the distribution of property and assets. This commission was established. If it prepares proposals, they will be examined. I very much would have liked us to adopt documents of this sort because they lie at the basis of justice and equality of rights. This is a very important issue.

Other problems which arrived from Minsk, Kiev, and Moscow, let us say, also will be examined. We failed to resolve the problem of the Black Sea Fleet; the commission could not reach an agreement. I believe, again, that we will resolve the issue of deported peoples and national minorities. As for mechanisms, the heart of the matter is that these mechanisms easily can be made up of representatives of all states, like commissions of some sort, which can supervise the tackling of this or that issue.

By the way, a Russian delegation stated in Kiev—and we received this with great approval—that having taken into account the spring agricultural work, Russia had instructed its representatives in the localities to send oil—petrol in this case—to other states. This is just, and it will be done on receipt of payments, of course, but they must be sent there.

Otherwise, if we fail to sow, talk about the Commonwealth and other problems and economic reforms will be rather illusionary. We have a lot of problems and I believe that we will be tackling them. We will be moving toward their solution if the things upon which we agreed are implemented. I repeat: If they again are just words, then there virtually is no sense in meeting. We cannot deceive the people any longer. We either work and implement decisions or we must stop using the Commonwealth as a screen not for implementing decisions but for creating illusions for the world community.

[Malashenko] But is it actually an illusion or is it a reality? You set the tone for the news conference in Kiev by saying that the Commonwealth, its very name, was just a dream. As you know, there are different dreams. There are empty dreams, which one must cast aside as soon as possible. Then there are dreams that are worth fighting to realize. What sort of dream is this? Is it the first or the second?

[Kravchuk] Yes, I agree with you that there are dreams about which one may say, in the poet's words: Dreams, dreams, where is your sweetness? But there also are realistic dreams. When we were setting up the Commonwealth, we wanted it to work and to coincide with the interests of the peoples and the states, especially after the Union, which had disintegrated, which had been set up on the basis of violence and had brought people nothing but trouble, and which had disintegrated very rapidly under democratic conditions, or in a democratic environment.

The fact is, however, that this Commonwealth has not as yet produced real results. This dream may become a reality if each state fulfills the decisions that are made. I am stressing this constantly. You will realize that of late, starting with the so-called perestroyka, not a single document adopted by the former president, the former power structures of the Union, and now by the Commonwealth, has been implemented. Unless this is put right, nothing will come of it.

You have been speaking about mechanisms. In the former Union mechanisms did exist: There was the congress, the Supreme Soviet, and the president and his authority. There were still powerful structures, but they did not work. There is now, once again, a nostalgia for such things. Let us create mechanisms and power structures so that they grow like Mont Blanc, you know, so that there once again is hope that they will accomplish something. The people's interests are not being satisfied, and until this happens no commonwealth will work. I am convinced of that.

[Malashenko] Mr. President, are you addressing these words primarily to the leaders of the states with which you are interacting? Or to the peoples of whose interests you have been speaking, to the voters who should put pressure on the leaders? Who should change the situation?

[Kravchuk] Everyone should change it. People should understand this above all: There is only one way out—to carry out the decisions that represent the common interest. For example, I might ring up Kharkov Oblast and ask: Why aren't you tackling this or that issue? Why aren't you working together with the oblasts adjacent to you in the Russian Federation? They say: But we are working with them. We are trying, but they say that they are under no instructions to cooperate with oblasts in Ukraine.

Do you see what is happening? All is well and good in words, but when we actually get down to establishing direct links, we find our way blocked. Let us say for example that I would like to use this interview to send my best wishes to the people of Tyumen, where there are a lot of Ukrainians. As of today, we have not found a way to interact with them. We do want mechanisms for this to come into effect. The people of Ukraine will be grateful forever to all the Russians and Ukrainians in Tyumen if these mechanisms allow us to work together.

[Malashenko] Mr. President, thank you very much. Our time is up, and we are grateful to you for the opportunity to ask you these questions. All the best and good-bye.

[Kravchuk] Good-bye, and thanks for the meeting.

Briefs Bush, Mitterrand on Results

LD2103185692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1807 GMT 21 Mar 92

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Kiev, 21 Mar (TASS)—A telephone conversation took place today between Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk and U.S. President George Bush. The U.S. head of administration was informed about the results of the CIS summit which took place on 20 March in Kiev. The U.S. President's attention was drawn especially to the discussion and adoption of the decisions on CIS military issues as well as to the fact that the participants in the session signed a memorandum on the division of the former USSR's external debts.

The same questions were raised in today's telephone conversation between Leonid Kravchuk and French President Mitterrand. In particular, the Ukraine president informed the French head of state about the decisions taken by the participants in the summit on the question of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and normalization of the situation in the Dnestr region. The declaration on the non-use of force or the threat of force in relations between the CIS states and the agreement on cooperation in protecting their state borders, maritime economic zone, and continental shelf should facilitate the normalization of relations between them, Leonid Kravchuk noted.

Questions of common interest were also raised during these conversations.

Decree Issued To Promote Foreign Trade

LD2003203792 Moscow TASS in English 2010 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By unidentified UKRINFORM correspondent for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Kiev March 20—President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk issued a decree on measures aimed at promotion of foreign economic activities. According to the decree, all subjects of foreign economic activities in Ukraine have the right to carry out import and export operations of goods. Until the introduction of Ukraine's national currency subjects of economic activities on the republic's territory have the right to make without special permission hard currency payments, including retail trade of goods and services rendered.

Don Cossacks Detained Trying To Enter Moldova

LD2003155792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1230 GMT 20 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Donetsk—On March 19 the Donbass transport militia detained 70 Cossacks of the first Don District, who, according to militia's opinion, were going to the Dnestr Republic.

The Cossacks led by Ataman (chieftain) Reznik and Cossack Yesaul (captain) Sidorov were going by Rostov-Odessa train No. 233, PF [POSTFACTUM] was told at the Yasinovataya (Donetsk region) railway militia station. The Cossacks were detained under Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's decree that suspends groups of individuals travelling to Moldova via Ukraine and using transport for the said purpose. On March 19 the Rostov regional interior administration appealed to all the Don Cossack Atamans, to give up recruitment of volunteers to the Dnestr Republic, as such actions are treated as interference into the internal affairs of sovereign states.

5,500 Dnestr Refugees Arrive in Odessa Region

LD2203043192 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Now information about events in Transdnestr. A watchful calm is being observed there. [passage omitted]

Refugees from the area continue arriving in Odessa region. Their total number reached five and a half thousand people. The local authorities take all measures to supply them with all the necessary things.

Police Disrupt Russian Army Property Transfer

OW2003192992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1821 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian policemen on guard in the Ratno District of the Volyn region stopped two truckfuls of army property en route to Russia on Friday [20 March]. According to Ukrainian sources, the property included a wheeled radio station worth 1 million rubles, and a KAMAZ truck with army uniforms, several submachineguns and pistols with cartridges.

The cargo was patrolled by a group of military led by a lieutenant-colonel. Their detention involved the use of firearms on the part of the Ukrainian policemen, but no one was hurt.

Official Says Russia Appropriating Property

LD2003233892 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Russia is one-sidedly trying to appropriate the status of an owner of all foreign property of the former USSR, counter to the well-defined agreements on the right of succession between the CIS countries, Boris Tarasyuk, deputy foreign minister of Ukraine stated in an interview to the press. All attempts at solving this problem at the negotiating table, he stressed, have so far not produced any results.

Some Ukrainian Cadets To Study in Moscow

LD2003164192 Moscow TASS in English 1421 GMT 19 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow March 19 TASS—The cadets of the Lvov Institute of Culture, who did not take an oath of allegiance to Ukraine, will be transferred to Moscow's Military Humanitarian Academy shortly, Colonel Aleksandr Zyuskevich, deputy chairman of the Committee for Work with the Personnel of the Commonwealth Joint Armed Forces, told ITAR-TASS today.

The cadets, who swore allegiance to Ukraine, will continue their studies in Lvov and will receive job assignments from the Ukrainian Defence Ministry.

This decision was made after Lvov cadets sent an appeal to Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of the Commonwealth Joint Armed Forces, expressing serious concern over their future.

Republic Asks U.S. for Separate Loans

OW2303121892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1016 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian independent agency Respublika reports that Ukraine has asked the U.S. for loans separately from the rest of the CIS states. Ukraine is not involved in the programme for food aid to the former Soviet republics, adopted in 1991.

Since January 1991, the U.S. has supplied the CIS with food worth 4 billion dollars.

Plans To Combat Crime With CSFR Noted

AU2003152592 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] The Ministries of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and Czechoslovakia have decided to coordinate actions in combating crime. Experts from the two republics are now elaborating a corresponding agreement. The main trends in this cooperation include prevention of drugs trafficking across borders and of illegal export of currency. It is also planned to coordinate actions in detaining particularly dangerous criminals.

National Affairs

Kravchuk Receives Sevastopol Deputies

PM2003171192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Mar 92 p 1

[Report by Captain Second Rank V. Pasyakin under "Direct Line" rubric: "Ukraine Promises To Help But Demands Subordination in Return"]

[Text] Sevastopol—Everyone knows what a complex situation the Black Sea Fleet and its main base, Sevastopol, have found themselves in. The Fleet capital has found itself in a real economic blockade for its intractability. The lack of the most essential foods, the highest prices on Ukrainian territory, and the acute shortage of consumer goods...

The deliberate nature of the restrictive sanctions may be judged by the letter from the Ukrainian Ministry of Finance to the city authorities, with which I was familiarized by Sevastopol Mayor Ivan Yermakov. To the request of the Sevastopol City Soviet of People's Deputies Executive Committee regarding the annual allocation of funds from the republic budget for compensation for expenses connected with the stationing of the naval base, the letter reports that "...these questions may be resolved when forming the 1992 republic budget, after the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet has made a decision on the Black Sea Fleet."

Nevertheless, a Sevastopol deputies' delegation which included people's elected representatives from that city plus the Crimea and Ukraine recently returned from Kiev. They raised the question of a whole range of urgent measures designed to stabilize the city's economy and to alleviate its social ills. The delegation was received by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk.

The meeting also discussed the fate of the Black Sea Fleet and its finances. Kravchuk noted that the Fleet is maintained by Ukraine, which has allocated 350 million rubles [R] for the first quarter of the year. Recently a further R400 were allocated. As for the 100 million from Russia, it has not reached its destination because it is frozen in Ukrainian banks for a month. The Sevastopol delegation suggested that this money be used for the city's needs and reducing kindergarten fees. The president supported this proposal. Admittedly, it is not clear how resources allocated to the Fleet but not belonging to Ukraine can be redistributed.

Assembly Appeals to Kravchuk To Quit CIS

LD2003165492 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] The Ukrainian National Assembly has promulgated an appeal to President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine. It demands that, at the meeting of heads of the CIS states, the president should announce Ukraine's secession from the Commonwealth. The leadership of the Ukrainian National Assembly believes that being a member of the Commonwealth does not assist in solving Ukraine's economic problems and that the CIS is used by Russia to achieve its interests at the expense of other states.

Crimea Movement Collects 178,000 Signatures

LD2103195492 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] The Crimea republican movement has already collected 178,000 signitures in support of holding a referendum on Crimea's breaking away from Ukraine. They are only 2,000 signitures short of the necessary quantity. The deadline is as far away as 3 April. One can suppose that the referendum in the Republic of Crimea will take place.

Criticizes Sevastopol Decree

OW2103135192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1237 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday [21 March] some 150 activists from the "Crimea" movement gathered in front of the Black Sea Fleet headquarters to express support for the Fleet's commander Admiral Igor Kasatonov.

Speakers criticized the Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk for his decree on the status of Sevastopol. Activists of the "Crimea" movement believe that to place the city of Sevastopol under the jurisdiction of Ukrainian authorities actually rules out the possibility of its residents' participation in a referendum on the status of the Crimean Peninsula.

Pro-Ukraine Protesters Picket

LD2103140392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 19 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Sevastopol branch of Rukh and the Ukrainian Republican Party have been picketing the headquarters of the Black Sea fleet. There were approximately 150 protesters. They demanded a halt to the persecution of sailors who swear an oath of the allegiance to Ukraine and that part of the fleet be placed under Ukrainian jurisdiction.

The pickets were supported by activists from the Crimean Tatar movement, according to a report from the RIA agency.

Referendum Banned in Sevastopol

LD2303123992 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 2300 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] The all-Crimean referendum on the independence of Crimea cannot be held in Sevastopol. Even if it takes place its results will not have any legal standing. This explanation was given on 21 March by Pavlo Yevgrafov, head of the state and legal department of the Secretariat of the Supreme Soviet of the Crimea, in the KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA newspaper. This conclusion, he stressed, is derived from the decree of the Ukraine president on making Sevastopol subordinate to Ukraine and of Article 77 of the republic's Constitution.

People's Deputy Criticizes Kravchuk Appointments

LD2303123192 Kiev Radio Kiev International Service in Ukrainian 2300 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Vyacheslav Chornovil, Ukrainian people's deputy and cochairman of the People's Movement, stated in an interview that the first appointments of oblast representatives by President Kravchuk show strong influence on the president by the former Communist Party structures. In seven out of 10 cases, Kravchuk appointed the very people that Rukh considers to be most reactionary and unwanted. In Chornovil's opinion, this shows once again that Rukh chose the correct course of opposing the president with selective support of his actions.

Further on Strike in Donetsk Region

LD2003175292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1348 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Donetsk—4 out of 7 mines and 3 ore-enriching combines halted work due the continued strike of Donetsk region's transport workers in the city Dobropoliye on March 18. On March 19, 45 transport companies went on strike in Donetsk. The work was stopped at the steel pipes plant and construction sites in the city. Two mines with symbolic names of Russia and Ukraine, are completely out of operation while the remaining pits reduced their operations by half. Six transport companies are on strike (1,743 vehicles and 2,165 employees) in Makeyevka. In addition, the Makeyevka strike was supported by some drivers of two passenger companies: approximately 250 buses out of 285 are engaged in passenger transportation. The taxi companies do not take part in the strike. 28 out of 95 trolleybuses were operated on March 18 and the figure reduced to 8 by the end of the day. PF [POSTFACTUM] was informed at the coordination council of the regional striking committee that on March 19 a meeting of the conciliatory commission attended by representatives from the regional striking committee of transport workers, the Supreme Soviet and the cabinet of ministers of Ukraine was held in Kiev. The commission considered transport workers' demands and the government signed a protocol on implementation of the basic claims.

Donbass Strikers Stop Talks With Government

MK2103131592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Mar 92 p 2

[NEGA report under the "News in Brief" rubric: "Donbass Drivers Strike"]

[Text] A total of 80,000 people are already taking part in the Donbass drivers' strike that began 17 March. Strike Committee Chairman O. Zakhariani stated that the strike will be called off only when the government meets all the strikers' demands.

Many industrial enterprises are now on the verge of grinding to a halt. Transportation is operating only in the city of Slavyansk. According to Oleg Zakhariani, Kiev has stated that it will agree to talks only once the strike has been called off. The Donbass transport workers' strike committee decided 18 March to continue their action and recall their delegation from Kiev, where it was engaged in talks with the Cabinet of Ministers.

Workers from the Krivoy Rog section of the Dnestr Railroad decided to join the Donbass transport workers 20 March. The railroad workers are demanding a pay raise and retirement on preferential terms.

Strike for 'Purely Economic Demands'

PM2303152392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 17 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report by G. Kondaurov and Li Din Khvan, from Donbass]

[Text] [Announcer] Next a report from the Donbass, where motor transport workers have called a strike.

[Kondaurov] Freight transportation has been suspended. City streets and highways are deserted. There are no intercity bus connections. Hundreds of thousands of people in Donetsk and other Donbass cities did not get to work on time today. Normal work at mines and enterprises has been disrupted.

The strike coordinating committee had assigned a small number of trucks for bread and milk deliveries to kindergartens and hospitals. Yet in a number of cities and villages the trucks delivering flour to bakeries were not operating.

The drivers have declared that this is not a political strike and that there is no connection between it and the congress of deputies of the former Union and the rally held in Moscow today. The motor transport workers are putting forward purely economic demands. Half of the motor vehicle stock is worn out and there are absolutely no spare parts. Drivers receive the lowest pay among the main employee groups in the Donbass.

[V.I. Pashchenko, chairman of motor transport enterprises' trade union committee, identified by caption] The government has to pay out between eight and ten times the minimum wage to the drivers. These demands will now probably be upped in view of the galloping price rises.

Cabinet of Ministers Examine Journalists Appeal

LD2003221192 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine attentively examined the appeal of the National Strike Committee of Journalists of Ukraine from 4 March, 1992, and with understanding considered the problems put forth. An agreement was reached between the representatives of the government, the strike committee and Union of Journalists of Ukraine that a consultative meeting will take place in the very near future to work out joint measures in support of the national press.

Antonov Hopes For Common Economic Space

LD2003174392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1348 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Kiev—Ukraine's Minister for Defense Matters and Conversion Victor Antonov: I hope we'll manage to retain a common economic space. The minister also believes that without a common economic space conversion is impossible, as well as creating, if need be, new military equipment. Said Antonov: Despite a difficult economic situation, Ukraine has not sold a cent's worth of arms . The minister, however, does not rule out the possibility of doing so in the future.

Aid Approved for Population's 'Least Provided'

LD2003141992 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1200 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has approved a state program for rendering and organizing help in kind and financial help to the least provided sections of the population which has been elaborated by the republic's Ministry of Labor. From 1 April, food subsidies are being introduced for disabled single people and families whose income per capita—average combined income per member of the family—is less than 50 percent of the minimum wage.

The amount of the subsidies calculated for a year will be up to 200 percent of the minimum wage for a disabled person who is the breadwinner or any other adult member of the family, and up to 100 percent of the minimum wage for a child under 16.

Self-Defense Detachments Formed in Sumy Region

OW2203162692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1457 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] People in Ukraine's Sumy Region have formed "self-defense" detachments to prevent food and consumer goods from being taken out of the region. The local police have already dealt with a few instances where private cars were stopped and goods bought in the region taken away from the passengers, but the police have refused to make any comments.

Vehicles Carrying Military Equipment Impounded

LD2203053492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 21 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Ukrainian militia yesterday impounded two vehicles carrying military property on their way to for Russia. According to Ukrainian sources, they were a vehicle-borne radio station worth over 1 million rubles and a KamAZ truck carrying military gear [amunitsiya] as well as several assault rifles and pistols with ammunition. The arrest was accompanied by the use of weapons by the Ukrainian militia.

Odessa Oil Refinery Stops Operations

LD2203042592 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] For the first time in its history the oil refinery in Odessa stopped operating not for planned repairs but because of a lack of raw material. Of the planned 1 million tonnes of oil from Russia and other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States the plant received only 650,000 tons. Because of the lack of fuel the city bus service and taxis have been paralyzed. The reserve supply of fuel is being divided between the transport which ensures the most necessary and vital sections of operation. Businessmen are already asking 1,000 rubles per jerry can.

Plant Retooled for Tank Destruction

LD2203032192 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] The tank repair plant in Lvov has been completely reequipped for the resmelting of war machines, which are subjected to be destroyed in line with the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe. Three hundred tanks will soon be destroyed there. In the 40 months foreseen by the Vienna Treaty, 1,000 tanks will be turned into scrap metal at this plant.

Belarus

Acting Defense Minister on CIS Kiev Meeting

LD2103183292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1652 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Minsk, 21 Mar (BELTA-TASS)—Under no circumstances should the existing ties between the republics of the former USSR which have become sovereign states be broken. This applies not only to military problems. This was revealed today at a news conference by Belarus Acting Defense Minister Colonel General Petr Chaus following his return from Kiev, where he took part in a meeting of the CIS Council of Heads of State.

The unity of peoples and goverments, he underscored, is also necessary in order to unravel the intricate bundle of political and economic problems put forward by life. Personal contacts between politicians and the military is the best means of resolving any difficult issues which might arise.

Assessing the Kiev meeting, Petr Chaus expressed the opinion that it passed off in a mainly constructive and benevolent tone, and this gives serious grounds for an optimistic view on the future of the CIS.

The head of the Belarus military department is worried about the fact that even the Kiev meeting did not give an answer to the issue of a single approach to financing the Army, which today makes up the defense potential of the Commonwealth, and of every sovereign CIS state. Petr Chaus considers that is necessary for the governing structures and for the parliaments of the sovereign states to adopt legislative acts which will dot the 'i's' and cross the 't's' in order to resolve the problems of collective security.

According to the Belarus acting defense minister, the multi-layered "cake" of problems which the states of the CIS have accummulated does not allow haste and willful acts in order to resolve them. He characterized the creation of the Russian Defense Ministry as a natural expression of the will of the sovereign Russian state, which was supported at the meeting of the CIS heads of state in Kiev.

Parliament Passes Military Service Bill

LD2003150892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1344 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Minsk, 20 Mar (BELTA-TASS)—The Belarussian parliament today adopted a bill "on universal conscription and military service." This document envisages permanent service in the Republic's armed forces for soldiers, sailors, NCOs, and warrant officers who express such a wish. Specialists believe that this lays the foundation for the establishment of a professional army. Its strength is not expected to exceed 100,000 to 105,000 men.

Discussions on Creation of Armed Forces Noted

PM2003142592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Mar 92 p 1

[Report by Colonel P. Chernenko under the "Direct Line" rubric: "On 20 March Belarus Embarks on Creation of Its Own Army. So Far Only One Question Is Unresolved—Belorussian Military District Property"]

[Text] Minsk—The Belarussian parliament stated this back in September last year. At the time the matter went no further than a declaration. It was not specified what the Armed Forces would be like, what formations and troops they would consist of, and to whom they would be subordinate. Now, in discussing the draft law on the Belarus Armed Forces, the parliament has determined specifically what the Belarus Army will be like. It will include ground forces, air forces, air defense forces, and special forces.

The numerical strength of the Armed Forces was also determined. Mechislav Grib, chairman of the parliamentary commission for questions of national security, defense, and the struggle against crime, stated that initially there will be 90,000-100,000 servicemen in the Belarussian army. The number of servicemen in the air force has been set at 12,000 and the number in the air defense forces at 18,000. According to preliminary calculations, the republic needs 17 billion rubles [R] to create its own armed forces. But some deputies have cited other figures: R20, 25, or 30 billion.

There was a long discussion of the proposal from deputy Zenon Pozdnyak that all property and military equipment on the territory of Belarus be declared the property of the republic. Many deputies asserted that this contradicts the agreements reached with other CIS countries. In brief, the question remained open. The parliamentarians agreed with the proposal of Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich to defer the solution of the question until next Tuesday [24 March], when the relevant agreements will have been adopted at the Kiev meeting of heads of state.

So the law on the Republic of Belarus Armed Forces has been adopted. But the draft law on defense, a report on which was delivered by Colonel General Petr Chaus, Belarussian acting defense minister, still has to be discussed. The debates which began after the report have been postponed until 19 March and took place in camera.

General Staff's Demands Said 'Unacceptable'

MK2103134592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Mar 92 p 3

[Igor Sinyakevich report under the "Belarus" rubric: "The Republic Has Not Been Able To Agree With the General Staff and Has Become the Fourth Commonwealth State To Establish Its Own Army"]

[Text] As the NEGA agency has already reported, the republic's Supreme Soviet decided 18 March to set about establishing Belarussian Armed Forces as of 20 March. The republic's leaders had previously not forced the pace of events and repeatedly stated that the process of establishing armed forces is a lengthy one and requires a transition period.

At the meeting of the CIS heads of state 14 February, Belarus consented to join the General-Purpose Forces for two years. The main reason for the halfhearted stance adopted by Belarus was the fact that the republic is not in a position to finance by itself the armed forces stationed on its territory. Because the republic, which in line with General Staff strategy was in the second echelon of defense, was saturated with troops. There is one servicemen for every 43 civilian inhabitants in the republic. This concentration is two or three times higher than the CIS average. In establishing its own armed forces in the same way as Ukraine—on the basis of former Soviet Army units—Belarus risked bankrupting itself by undertaking to finance the troops stationed on the republic's territory.

The radical stance adopted by Belarus on the eve of the Kiev meeting is explained by the fact that the republic was unable to find a common language with the General Staff. Under the draft agreement prepared by this structure, Belarus was due to contribute 15.750 billion rubles [R] to the upkeep of the Strategic Forces, and R14.321 billion to the upkeep of the General-Purpose Forces. These figures seemed quite unacceptable to the republic. The main point was that it would have been 1.5 times cheaper for Belarus to finance all the troops on its territory, including the strategic ones.

On 19 March the republic's parliament examined and adopted on their first reading the draft laws "On Defense of the Republic of Belarus," "On the Republic of Belarus Armed Forces," "On the Status of Servicemen and Members of Their Families," "On the Republic of Belarus State Border," and "On the Republic of Belarus Border Troops." The first of these draft laws says that Belarus is striving for neutrality and nuclear-free status, and stresses the defensive character of the military doctrine. "The Republic of Belarus has armed forces to provide armed defense, and also border troops, Ministry of Internal Affairs internal troops, civil defense troops, and railroad troops," the draft law says. The Republic of Belarus Armed Forces will in turn consist of ground forces, an air force, air defense forces, and special troops.

As Leonid Privalov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Subcommission for Defense, stated to your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent, Belarus has prepared a protocol under which all ground units and air defense forces, the Vitebsk Airborne Division, and also all fighter and ground-attack aircraft, are to be incorporated into its Armed Forces. The joint strategic forces are to include nuclear weapons, bomber aircraft, and also the aviation and radar units of the Baltic Fleet.

As far as the military oath is concerned, the Belarussian leadership will, as before, not force the pace of this process, believing that this is a formal act and officers need to be given the chance to choose without any pressure.

Government Drops Value Added Tax Rate

LD1903235192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English
1551 GMT 18 Mar 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] Minsk—As of April 1, in Belarus the VAT [Value Added Tax] for products sold at free prices will be reduced from 50 to 14 per cent. On March 17 the session of the Belarus Supreme Council discussed the draft laws on taxation. According to Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, the VAT has been tentatively and temporarily, evidently for a month, reduced. The government's proposal on reducing the tax on exchange activities from 60 to 40 per cent has been rejected.

Tarazevich Interviewed on Border Demarcation

OW2003101092 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1457 GMT 19 Mar 92

[From "Diplomatic Panorama" based on reports by diplomatic correspondents Mikhail Mayorov, Igor Porshnev, and others; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an interview with DP ["Diplomatic Panorama"], the chairman of the Belarussian State Land-Surveying Committee, Georgiy Tarazevich (who had formerly headed a commission in the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet) said 60 percent of the borders between the republics of the former USSR had not been properly demarcated.

Thus the border between Belarus and Lithuania was established as far back as 1940 but it had never been demarcated. Belarussian and Lithuanian collective farms were repeatedly shifting it in their own interest.

At the moment, Tarazevich said, his committee was preparing a map with accurately demarcated frontiers, for which it had the consent of Lithuania and Latvia. The problem would apparently be solved this ear.

At the same time Tarazevich thought the parliaments of the republics should decide on what principle the demarcation was to be done, namely whether it should be based on former legislation or on existing land tenure practices. Otherwise there might be "dangerous consequences."

Kebich Elected Head of 'Anticrisis Committee'

PM2003160792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
19 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Mikhail Shimanskiy report: "Prime Minister V. Kebich Heads Belarus Anticrisis Committee"]

[Text] Republic of Belarus leaders and the leaders of a number of parties, movements, and public organizations have signed an anticrisis agreement. An anticrisis committee headed by Prime Minister V. Kebich has also been elected.

The committee's main aim is to formulate an anticrisis program. State structures and ministries must decide their plan of action in the event of a threat to the republic's sovereignty. This association has also been formed to prevent various surprises occurring on Belarus territory due to violence and the disruption of stability.

The local press is expressing perplexity that the anticrisis agreement was not signed by representatives of the Belarussian Military District. This does indeed provide food for thought. The Orthodox Church has also refused to join the anticrisis committee.

Commenting on these two facts, M. Tkachev, chairman of the Belarussian Social-Democratic Gromada, said: "The uncertainty whether the Belarussian Military District will come to the republic's defense if necessary constitutes an equation with many unknown quantities. As for the Orthodox Church, I think that this is the wrong time for it to remain aloof."

Here is an important detail. M. Tkachev stresses that the anticrisis committee has emerged from the depths of a patriotic organization—the Belarussian Association of Servicemen—rather than a political organization.

The election of the head of the Belarus Government as the committee's chairman is highly indicative. First, because an exceptional role is attached to this phenomenon in the republic. Second, in the event of anything serious happening, all state structures directly under government jurisdiction will be brought into play.

National Bank Reports Republic To Join EBRD

OW2103135092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1237 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Belarus will join the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD] as early as next month, IF's [INTERFAX's] correspondent was told at the republic's national bank. In the meantime its joining the International Monetary Fund has been postponed since, as a spokesman for the bank said, an indispensable condition for this is the absence of budget deficit, strict crediting policy and the national bank's independence from the government.

Moldova

Resolution on Solving Dnestr Conflict Approved

LD2003113192 Chisinau Radio Chisinau Network in Russian 1600 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Report by correspondent Irina Setola by live link from the parliamentary studio]

[Text] Prime Minister Valeriu Muravschi has presented measures to parliament worked out by the government to solve the conflict on the left bank [of the Dnestr] and to improve the political situation in the republic. These measures were discussed and a commission was set up here in parliament comprising all members of the Presidium and the leaders of the parliament clubs, and at 1600 this commission worked out its resolution on its attitude to the measures proposed by the government.

As was stressed by Aleksandr Moshanu, chairman of Parliament, the resolution was worked out unanimously at the commission. So the resolution for normalization of the political situation in the country includes the following:

1. The government resolution where standpoints are taken for solving the conflict by peaceful means should be noted.

2. The government is to elaborate a concept of a draft law on a free economic zone and to present it for scrutiny by parliament. The government is also to take measures to restore legal structures of power on the left bank and to observe the legitimate interests and rights of citizens. The commission for local self-government and the government are to speed up and to present to parliament within 10 days a law on the administrative-territorial system of the republic.

4. [as heard] The Human Rights and Interethnic Relations Commission and the Science and Education Commission are to present within four days amendments to the law on state language and mechanisms for introducing these amendments.

5. The president is to accelerate the signing of treaties with neighboring states.

The resolution comes into force from the time of its adoption. With that, the parliament ended its work today. The next session will be on Tuesday, 24 March.

Ministry on Rostov's 'Connivance' in Conflict

LD2003114692 Chisinau Radio Chisinau Network in Russian 1600 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] The Interior Ministry of the Republic of Moldova has received the following telex message from the leadership of the Administration of Internal Affairs of Rostov Oblast:

Staff of the internal affairs bodies of Rostov Oblast deeply sympathize over the exacerbation of the situation on the border between Transdnestr and Moldova. It is our firm conviction that this conflict is complicating the crisis situation in the CIS. We are opposed categorically to the participation in armed clashes of staff from the internal affairs bodies. This merely distracts the militia and police forces from carrying out their tasks in the fight against crime and hampers the strengthening of our ties in countering interregional crime groups. We assume that all issues in dispute on the territory of the former

USSR must be solved exclusively by political means without the use of force. We express our readiness to cooperate in ensuring law and order and legality in our states.

In the reply message, the Interior Ministry leadership of our republic says:

The staff of internal affairs bodies of Moldova are grateful to you for the concern displayed in connection with the events taking place in our republic. But, at the same time, they express bewilderment at the inaction and connivance of the internal affairs bodies of Rostov Oblast in this situation, as a result of which Cossack mercenaries have been allowed to go to the left bank region of Moldova. Among them are many criminal elements, probably being sought by you.

Having arrived here, your fellow-citizens together with the bandits of the illegal armed formations of the so-called Dnestr Guard, have unleashed real criminal activity—murders, acts of banditry, violence, vandalism, atrocities, pillage. In the most real way they are terrorizing the population of the left bank who do not share the views of the separatist putschists from Tiraspol. By their deeds, they only bring shame on the Cossack name. We deeply regret that as a result of the absence of true information in your area you have been misled and do not know that there is no such republic as the Dnestr Moldavian Republic. This is an invention of those who do not want to renounce their imperial ambitions and who are against the rights and liberties of the peoples of the former USSR. It is they who have created opposition in various regions of the CIS and who are pushing us against each other.

If you truly desire peace for the peoples living in our republic, if you really desire the strengthening of our ties in fighting the interregional criminal world, then do everything necessary to get your fellow-citizens to stay at home and concern themselves with their own rich land, and to get the adventure-seekers who have come to the Republic of Moldova to return to their homes on the Don. This will be a great sypport in restoring peace, legality, and law and order in the Republic of Moldova. We favor close cooperation in the fight against crime.

Snegur Ponders Romanian Aid for Dnestr Crisis

LD2003125292 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 0600 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Moldova's head of state announced that his republic will seek aid from Romania unless the danger of a civil war diminishes in its territories along the Dnestr. Mircea Snegur issued a statement simultaneously to the BBC and Hungarian television disapproving of the fact that the Transdnestrian Russian separatists are supported by some 1,000 Cossacks. It is interference in the Republic's internal affairs, which allows Moldova to appeal to another country—Romania, for instance—for support. Snegur does not reject the notion that the Moldovan-Romanian state agreement being prepared will include a mutual assistance clause.

Army Commander Reiterates Neutrality in Dnestr

LD2003115492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0830 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] There is no doubt that the Dnestr conflict could be on a completely different scale if the Army—I stress, the Army, and not individual representatives of it—became entangled in it. But, thank goodness, we also have the stance of Major General [Yuriy] Netkachev, commander of the CIS 14th Army, who has remained neutral, as he should, despite the pressure exerted on him.

[Begin Netkachev recording] I received an ultimatum from the women's strike committee, from which I understood that my main task is to supply hardware, to provide soldiers on the bridges, and to hand over weapons and ammunition. Of course, all this received a clear answer: Never. Nobody will ever force me, under any conditions or circumstances, to give the order to unleash the Karabakh or Yugoslav option on the territory of the Dnestr region and Moldova—not in any position, however I might be pressured psychologically, morally, or in any other way that they might think up.

A meeting of officers of the division was taking place at that time. They demanded that the Dnestr leadership, along with those strike committees, come to the meeting. The officers looked all those leaders straight in the eye and told them openly that they would never allow the Army to be drawn into any conflict.

There are ordinary working people on the territory both of the Dnestr region and of Moldova as a whole. When the ordinary working man sheds his blood, you realize in the depths of your soul that you are unable to help him and that you are powerless in this matter. Believe me, as a military man, I am sorry for myself and for all the people as a whole. What is the final result? Who needs this blood?

I constantly ask myself one question, but I have not yet managed to find an answer to it: Why are the two sides confronting each other? Why has a major been killed? Why have 90 people come onto the territory? Why have guardsmen turned up there? This business should be stopped once and for all, and the two sides should reach some sort of compromise and get to grips with the problem. Of course, perhaps it is difficult for me, a stranger, to grasp the whole complex situation here, but from what residents of Tiraspol and other towns which I have visited say, people literally have been happy to come and live on this soil, so who needs this blood? In general, I believe that justice always should triumph. [end recording]

[Announcer] We also have great hope that this will happen, that parties not involved in the conflict will not impede it, and that they might even do the opposite—put in a weighty word and have a beneficial influence on the course of events.

Units Set Up To Support Cossacks, Mercenaries

AU2003130792 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1220 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 20/3/1992—Units are formed at Grigoriopol in support of the Cossacks and mercenaries detachments, reliable sources quoted by MOLDOVA PRES have announced. Repeated appeals were made over the local radio and people who volunteered to enlist were promised arms. The same sources confirmed that arms had been distributed to the enlisted men according to previously made lists on the basis of passports, MOLDOVA PRES reports.

Decree on Military Jurisdiction Transfer Signed

LD2003134792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1205 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By MOLDOVA-PRES—TASS correspondent]

[Text] Chisinau, 20 Mar (TASS)—The president of the Moldovan Republic has signed a decree "On the Transfer to Moldovan Jurisdiction of Military Units Stationed on its Territory." The document points out that the transfer to republican jurisdiction of military formations and sub-units of the former Armed Forces of the Soviet Union is being carried out in order to form a basis for the formation of the Moldovan Armed Forces.

The decree envisages the handing over of all equipment, armaments, buildings, and other property used by military units to the Moldovan Ministry of Defense.

Servicemen in military units and sub-units which have been transferred to Moldovan jurisdiction are guaranteed all rights and benefits provided for by the existing legislation if they wish to continue their service.

General Yakovlev, Other Prisoners Exchanged

LD2003140792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] An exchange of prisoners took place today between Moldova and the Transdnestr Republic. The Moldovan authorities freed 14th Army General Gennadiy Yakovlev and five persons from Transdnestr who were detained at the end of last year. The Transdnestr leadership in turn freed 27 Moldovans who were seized in Dubossary in March. We have received this news through a STUDINFORM correspondent from Alina Zinkova, press secretary of the Tiraspol town soviet.

Snegur Welcomes Declaration on Transdnestr

LD2103224492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1654 GMT 21 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Dyakov]

[Excerpts] Bucharest, 21 Mar (TASS)— Presidents Ion Iliescu of Romania and Mircea Snegur of Moldova held their latest meeting in the Romanian capital today. Their discussions focused on the results of the sitting of the CIS council of heads of government, ways to resolve the situation in Transdnestr, and the political situation in Romania and Moldova. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent, M. Snegur said that the declaration on the Transdnestr events adopted at Kiev represents major moral support for Moldova in a time of need. His opinion is that the CIS leaders "took an understanding view of the republic's problems." The president welcomed Ukraine's recent decision to bar further Cossack groups from entering Moldova. "Since Boris Yeltsin also signed the Kiev declaration, I hope that Russia will act in a similarly resolute fashion," M. Snegur commented.

The Moldovan president reaffirmed his commitment to a peaceful settlement for the region. "I shall do all I can so that no more gunfire is heard in Transdnestr and so that peace and civic accord are established," he added.

I. Iliescu told journalists that a treaty of fraternity between the two countries is in the final stages of preparation and will possibly be signed before the end of the month during his visit to Chisinau.

Snegur, Romania's Iliescu Hold Talks

LD2103214792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Report over video by correspondent S. Zheleznyak—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A meeting took place in Bucharest today between the leaders of Romania and the Republic of Moldova.

[Zheleznyak] The presidents discussed the development of events in the Dnestr region and the work on the treaty of brotherhood between the two states, which they plan to sign as early as the end of March. Ion Iliescu talked about the two letters he has sent to Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk, proposing that the Dnester region conflict should be resolved at the negotiating table in talks between Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine. Romania is also ready to take part in these talks. The president of Romania stated that the conflict should be resolved on the basis of the indivisibility of the independent and sovereign state of the Republic of Moldova, a member of the United Nations.

Ion Iliescu and Mircha Snegur categorically denied reports that have appeared in the press about Romanian involvement in the Dnestr conflict, and described these as provocations. The president of the Republic of Moldova stressed that there is only one way to resolve the conflict—the peaceful way.

Iliescu Cited

LD2203000392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2200 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Romanian President Ion Iliescu does not rule out Romanian assistance in the creation of Moldovan Armed Forces. The president said as much when he was seeing off a Moldovan delegation in Bucharest. Moldovan President Mircea Snegur, Prime Minister Valeriu Muravski, and the Chairman of the Moldovan Parliament Alexandru Mosanu paid a six-hour visit to the Romanian capital. President Iliescu stressed, however, Romania would play no role in the armed conflict in Moldova. Mircea Snegur in turn said the Moldovan delegation had visited Bucharest to share impressions of the meeting the Commonwealth leaders held in Kiev and to speed up the work on a Moldovan-Romanian treaty.

Snegur on Talks

OW2203142392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The ceasefire agreement concluded between the Dnestr leadership and the Moldovan authorities has continued to be observed.

On Sunday [22 March] morning the Moldovan president, Mircea Snegur, conferred in Chisinau with members of the parliament's presidium and informed them of the outcome of his talks with President Ion Iliescu of Romania. An official account of the agreements achieved by the two leaders is expected later, but it is already known that the Romanian president promised to give material and technical assistance to Moldova's efforts to form an army of its own. Iliescu indicated, however, that his country would refrain from interfering in Moldovan internal affairs for fear of becoming subject to international isolation.

'Relative Calm' Reported in Dnestr Region

OW2303123192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1016 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The night March 22 was relatively calm in the Dnestr region, although there were occasional exchanges of fire near the Dubossary dam. The Press Center of the Dnestr republic informed IF [INTERFAX] that on Sunday [22 March] evening a 16-year-old boy from Dubossary was killed on the dam. According to the Tiraspol version, he was shot by Moldovan policemen when he was collecting sub-machine-gun cartridges. One more young man was wounded during shooting.

Manifestations of protest against the Dnestr separatists continue in Moldovan cities and villages. People are donating money to the refugees from the left bank. According to the Moldovan interior ministry, the number of refugees stands at about 200.

Shooting Continues in Dnestr Despite Cease-Fire

LD2303112292 Moscow TASS in English 1059 GMT 23 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, March 23 TASS— despite the ceasefire accord, shooting continues in the Dnestr region and the number of victims in the conflict is growing.

Two teen-agers who were gathering empty cartridge-cases on the bank of the Dnestr were wounded in the area of malovata village on Sunday [22 March] night, the Moldovan Interior Ministry announced today. One of the boys died of wounds. The body of a man whose identify is being established has also been brought to the right bank of the Dnestr from the conflict-ridden area.

As usually is the case, the two sides accused each other of commiting these crimes.

According to a report by the DNESTR INDEPENDENT NEWS AGENCY, the number of refugees from the Dnester region, particularly from the city of Dubossary and Dubossary district, is growing. More than 7,000 women, children and old men have already left the area. Men remain there to defend the city.

Tiraspol Calls For General Mobilization

AU2303123692 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1209 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Chisinau, ROMPRES 23/3/1992—The tension continued on the night of Sunday [22 March] and the morning of Monday, March 23, in the districts left of the Dnestr, MOLDOVA PRES reports, quoting the press office of the Republic of Moldova's Ministry of the Interior. The guardsmen, together with the Cossack mercenaries of the separatists keep building fortifications around the towns of Tighina and Ribnita and pistols and machine-guns are incidentally fired near the localities Cocieri, Cosnita and Dorotaia. The police fire back. No casualty was reported.

The Tiraspol radio periodically launches appeals to the population, urging to general mobilization, claiming that "the neighbour country, the Republic of Moldova" takes advantage of the time for conciliation in order to get armed with Romania's support, thus preparing "another aggression against the socialist state in Transdnestr."

Gagauz Republic Struggles for Independence

OW2203162592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1457 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Yesterday people's deputies in the Gagauz Republic in southern Moldova, which was proclaimed in August 1990 but has not been recognized by Moldova, held their fifth congress in Komrat.

The congress passed a resolution confirming the will of the Gagauz people for self-determination expressed in the Declaration of Freedom of the Gagauz People and Their Independence from the Republic of Moldova approved on August 19, 1990, and incorporated in the Constitution of the Gagauz Republic.

The congress instructed the President and parliament chairman of the Gagauz Republic to make proposals to the Moldovan government on a political system in Moldova which would guarantee a right to self-determination for the Gagauz people.

It expressed solidarity with the Transdnestr and sent telegrams to the presidents of Russia and Ukraine asking them for assistance in the peaceful solution of the nationalities issue in Moldova.

The head of the Gagauz Department for the Interior and Self-defense, Ivan Burgudzhi, has told our correspondent that on March 17 Moldovan President Mircea Snegur had a meeting with Ivan Topal, President of the Gagauz Republic. Snegur suggested that the Gagauzes abandon their demands for sovereignty and the federalization of Moldova.

The documents issued by the congress make it clear that the deputies have ignored Snegur's suggestion.

Kazakhstan

President Urges Preserving Joint Armed Forces

LD2003111492 Moscow TASS in English 1013 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Prokhorov]

[Text] Tokyo March 20 (TASS)—"Not only Russia, but also the republics of Central Asia, primarily Kazakhstan, stand for the preservation of the joint CIS Armed Forces," Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev told the newspaper TOKYO SHIMBUN on the eve of the CIS summit in Kiev.

At the same time, Nazarbayev noted that if the leaders of other states chose to withdraw from the CIS forces, Kazakhstan would be compelled to form its own armed units.

Touching on the problem of nuclear disarmament, Nazarbayev noted that Kazakhstan became a nuclear power not of its own free will. In accordance with its declaration on independence, it is striving to become a nuclear weapons-free state. Although strategic nuclear weapons still remain on Kazakh territory due to certain economic and military-technical reasons, Kazakhstan does not present any threat to other countries and will never be the first to use nuclear weapons. "It is also taking every measure to prevent the 'leakage' of nuclear weapons and nuclear technologies from the territory of the republic," the president said.

Nazarbayev also favours the perpetuation of a single rouble zone on the territory of the Commonwealth of Independent States, since, as he said, the introduction of national currencies would involve substantial spending. The Kazakh leader also doubted whether such currencies could ever become really convertible.

U.S. Official Cited on Cooperation Potential

PM2003163792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 17 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report by A. Laptev, from Kazakhstan]

[Text] [Announcer] As a result of a recent decision by the Kazakh Supreme Soviet to confer "free-economic-zone" status on East Kazakhstan Oblast, the oblast immediately found itself at the focus of international business attention.

[Laptev] The Japanese were among the first foreign investors to come to the ore-rich Altay. They established joint ventures, and subsequently opened a trade mission in Ust-Kamenogorsk.

They were followed by Chinese entrepreneurs thanks to the fact that the oblast borders on China. The partial opening of the border between Kazakhstan and China, which is planned for the near future, promises great advantages.

Here is another not insignificant event in the life of the new free-enterprise zone—a visit from William Courtney, charge d'affairs of the U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan, which has just opened in Alma-Ata. He was accompanied by a highly experienced expert, James (Cowart), assistant for economic affairs. The diplomats were shown practically everything that interested them, including classified, secret enterprises working on space development and research and nuclear power engineering. Naturally, this was a great revelation to William Courtney.

[William Courtney, U.S. embassy charge d'affairs, speaking in Russian] I have gained a good impression. This is my first visit to Kazakhstan, and naturally also to Ust-Kamenogorsk. I believe that good opportunities exist for economic and ecological cooperation between Kazakhstan and the United States.

Wind-Powered Electrical Generators Planned

LD1903181992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0604 GMT 17 Mar 92

[By KAZTAG Correspondent Vladimir Ganzha]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 17 Mar (TASS)—Kazakh scientists believe that wind energy on the Kazakhstan steppes may become an alternative even to nuclear power. Specialists from the Kazakh Energy Research Institute have identified a region with the greatest potential for this purpose: Dzhungarskiye Vorota in Taldy-Kurganskaya oblast.

According to scientists' estimates, it is possible to produce up to 100 billion kilowatt/hours a year in the natural passageway between the mountain ridges of Tyan-Shan and Tarbagatay. Winds blow in this area for about 300 days a year. In addition to that they reach maximum force during the cold months, when the demand for electrical power is increased.

Within the framework of the conversion program, the Yuzhnoye scientific production association, located in the Ukraine, has started drawing up plans for powerful wind energy stations in Dzhungarskiye Vorota.

Because of the harsh climatic conditions in that region, no one lives there permanently, except the inhabitants of the Druzhba border station. There are no cultivated fields, either. This is why building an electrical energy complex will not noticeably disrupt the people. According to engineers plans, the main components will be towers 100 meters tall and windsails of a similar diameter.

According to Anatoliy Krashennikov, president of the association on the use of renewable nontraditional energy resources, the prices for energy carriers may be out of reach for many organizations and citizens. However, the burning of liquid and solid fuel has been polluting the atmosphere in Kazakhstan's cities for a long time. All of this only highlights the importance of developing wind electrical power. The Yuzhnoye scientific production association is willing to create for the villagers of Kazakhstan an original wind station capable of heating houses and production premises without using any fuel.

Armenia

Azerbaijan Said To Violate Cease-Fire Accord

OW2203160692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1457 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to Armenian sources, Azerbaijan repeatedly violated the ceasefire agreement with Armenia on March 21-22. When the district center of Martuni came under Azeri artillery fire on Saturday [21 March], 1 civilian was gravely wounded, five others received light injuries, and 5 residential buildings were completely destroyed.

Armenian-populated villages of Karachinar, Kharkhaput and Manashit in the Shaumyan (formerly Gheranboi) district have been under heavy missile and artillery fire since Sunday [22 March] morning.

There have been casualties and destructions in Armenia's Noyemberyan district bordering on Azerbaijan. Police reports from the Krasnoselsky district mention the amassment of Azeri troops near the Armenian village of Artvashen, accompanied by the mass evacuation of Armenian residents from the nearby Azeri villages.

Iranian Envoy Witnesses Violation

LD2103200192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 21 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Noyemberyanskiy rayon in Armenia, which borders on Kazakhskiy rayon in Azerbaijan, has become a new flashpoint for an unpredictable exacerbation of the situation. According to official reports, the two sides concluded a cease-fire treaty. The population of Voskepar was practically eliminated.

To see for himself the reality of what has been happening, Nasir Zemani, temporary charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Armenia, arrived in Noyemberyanskiy rayon with a group of journalists. He witnessed a violation of the cease-fire two hours it was concluded by the Azerbaijan side which used heavy artillery to shell the village of Baganis. Several houses were totally destroyed, an elderly woman was killed, and there were wounded.

The representative of Iran acknowledged that the understanding was violated by the Azerbaijan side and that he considers it his duty to report to his government on what is happening because Iran is acting as initiator of a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Azerbaijan Said Shifting Fighting to Borders

NC2203170392 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] The cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabakh came into effect at noon on 20 March, but the Armenian village of Kharkhaput in Shaumyanovskiy Rayon again came under intense howitzer and tank shelling from the Azerbaijani bases in Shefeg village on the morning of 21 March. One resident was killed and eight injured.

This incident could be viewed within the complexity of the cease-fire and be judged as a mistake. Relative calm currently prevails in the hot spots of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Information coming from Armenia's border villages is creating the impression that the combat operations are gradually moving to the border. The possibility that the fighting might shift to the border regions cannot be ruled out. According to reliable sources, the Azerbaijani People's Front branches in Dzhulfa, Ordubad, and in other regions are actively raising the question of opening a second front against Armenia to facilitate their military operations in Nagorno-Karabakh. This is confirmed by events lasting throughout 20 March when (Perdavet), Gegashen, and Diran in Idzhevanskiy Rayon were shelled by large-caliber machine guns and [word indistinct] from Azerbaijan's Kazakhskiy Rayon. Shelling of the villages of Voskepar and Baganis in Noyemberyanskiy Rayon from Kazakhskiy Rayon left one person dead and several others injured. Aygepar, Movses, and Nerkin-Karmirakhpyur villages in Tavushskiy Rayon were fired on by cannons, tanks, machine guns, and Alazan missiles from the Malibeyly village in Azerbaijan's Tauzskiy Rayon. The shelling stopped this morning at 0600. There is many injured and a lot of destruction.

The mass media kept quiet when the Azerbaijanis took 15 servicemen at the Air Defense Unit near Mingechaur hostage and seized six missile launchers, targeting vehicle and [words indistinct] missiles. Nothing was said about this by [name indistinct], the former Vremya program, yet for three consecutive days it aired the investigation of the incident near Armenia's Artik city [words indistinct]. The silence of Russian Vice President Rutskoy, the Army's fervent defender, is also amazing. During the Artik incident he came forward with an angry and extensive statement.

Protest Note 'Demands' Azerbaijan Return Arms

NC2203172492 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1730 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] The press has published the Armenian Foreign Ministry statement on the seizure of arms at Mingechaur.

The statement says: The Azerbaijanis do not conceal the fact that these arms are intended to be used extensively both against Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia. In essence, such actions are a part of the Azerbaijani leadership's policy to tighten up further the energy and transportation blockade of Armenia, to destabilize the Republic's economy, and to incite armed provocations on the territory of Armenia. Azerbaijan's objective is to draw Armenia into the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Baku's stance threatens the prospects for laying the course of negotiations on the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry has sent a protest note that demands resolute measures be taken to return the arms seized at Mingechaur and to stop the intrigues against Armenia. Otherwise, Azerbaijan will be held fully responsible for the possible consequences.

Ter-Petrosyan, President Bush Discuss Conflict

LD2103191892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1843 GMT 21 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 21 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan this evening had a telephone conversation with U.S. President George Bush, during which they discussed problems related to a settlement of the Karabakh conflict, the possibility of a ceasefire between the opposing sides, matters regarding the lifting of the blockade of Armenia's transport communications, and the start of a political dialogue. The Armenian president drew G. Bush's attention to the need for the involvement of official representatives of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic in the negotiations on a settlement of this conflict.

A similar range of issues was discussed during a telephone conversation today between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Ovanesyan. The sides agreed to continue the exchange of views at the meeting of CSCE foreign ministers being convened in Helsinki on 24 March.

CSCE Criticized on Proposal To Ban Arms

NC2003211292 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] The leadership of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] is critical of the decision being examined by the CSCE council banning the supply of arms to the Karabakh zone of conflict.

After forcibly seizing the arsenal of the Transcaucasian military district, Azerbaijan now has an inexhaustible stock of arms and ammunition. In addition, the Azerbaijanis seized six S-75 [words indistinct] missile launchers with their combat [words indistinct] from the air defense unit stationed at Mingechaur. These weapons could destroy targets flying as high as 24 km. Fifteen servicemen from that same unit were taken hostage.

The decision on the banning is [word indistinct] one-sided and would give the opposing side the opportunity to destroy unimpeded the peaceful population of Karabakh. Turkey already is using that decision to block humanitarian assistance destined for Armenia and Karabakh.

The leadership of NKR believes that the decision on the ban should be adopted only after a total cease-fire and the deployment of UN peace-keeping troops in the region.

Nagorno-Karabakh Community Asks Russian Help

NC2203151692 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] The 2,000-strong Russian community in Nagorno-Karabakh has appealed to the Russian leadership to protect the region's Russian-speaking population and help the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's international recognition.

The appeal notes that along with the Armenians and Azerbaijanis, the Russian-speaking population is sustaining losses and suffering. For example, [words indistinct] Meli Mrove, deputy chief doctor of the Stepanakert emergency aid hospital, was killed. Military Prosecutor Igor Plazasin and his aide Aleksandr Goronskov were seriously injured during fierce shelling of Stepanakert.

There are still Russian villages in Nagorno-Karabakh even under these conditions, but there will be no more room for Russians in villages that are under Azerbaijani jurisdiction.

The Russian community also declared that the (?military) operations launched by the Azerbaijani Army against the Armenians prevent the Russian Orthodox Church from resuming its activities in Nagorno-Karabakh.

President Comments on Russia, Nagorno-Karabakh

NC2203223392 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1740 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Speech by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan at the closing session of the 4th Congress of the Armenian Pannational Movement in Yerevan 22 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] Unfortunately I could not take part in the first few days' work of the congress [words indistinct], but I am familiar with the newly formulated program and the by-laws. I can assure you that they fully conform to present needs. [passage omitted] Let us admit that the movement surmounted many psychological abysses in our national ideology and political thinking and transformed our romantic nation into a realistic and pragmatic nation. [passage indistinct]

I repeat that Russia, though it has avoided restoring the empire, will sooner or later come to understand its military-strategic interests. Even if Russia fails to become aware of these interests it will be made to realize what they are. For a vacuum always tends to be filled by

(?another state), which Russia cannot tolerate. Russia will not want to lose [words indistinct] these outlying regions as its areas of influence [words indistinct]. I am sure that Russia in some manner will have to extend its presence both in our region and in the other outlying zones of the former Soviet Union until it solves its domestic problems and starts pursuing a serious policy.

You already know our approach to relations with Iran and Turkey. Armenia and the present leadership of Armenia have from the outset adopted the policy that the most reliable guarantee for Armenia's existence as a state, or any state for that matter, is normal relations first of all with its immediate neighbors. This is the cornerstone of our foreign policy. Since Russia, Europe, and the United States are far away we cannot create a security system by relying on those strong and effective and yet distant states. We must solve our problems with our immediate neighbors to begin with.

We have no complications with Iran in this regard. Rather, we have common political interests in the absence of historical antagonisms and this presents major possibilities for developing Armenian-Iranian relations. I am pleased to note that lately Armenian-Iranian relations are developing very normally and I am sure that soon we will reap the practical fruits of these relations.

Relations with Turkey are more complex of course. But, I already said that over the years the Movement managed to overcome all the psychological impediments, and it was possible to instill in our people the view that we must be guided by our state's interests, by the principles of realpolitik. We see no impediment to establishing relations with Turkey.

It has been repeated many times before and I will say it again that as neighboring states Armenia and Turkey have obvious common interests in establishing realistic economic, trade, scientific, and cultural relations. The interest is mutual and hence establishing such relations should not be presented as one side imposing political conditions on the other. This is our approach. Official Turkish circles accept this approach, but many statements have been made lately by official Turkish circles contradicting it. This should not put us off. This is understandable. There are two reasons for this change. We have to coolly assess these two factors and should not be surprised by Turkey's change of approach.

The first is the Karabakh problem. Naturally, Turkey could not have remained indifferent to the fate of its blood relatives, particularly when Azerbaijan is very adept at using Turkey's assistance in this regard on the world stage. It should not be forgotten that there is public opinion in Turkey apart from the official stance. The opposition is using the Karabakh problem to accrue political dividends. That is, it appears that gradually the Karabakh problem is becoming a domestic issue in Turkey. All the parties and party activists are competing with each other to demonstrate their concern for the fate of their kin. This of course is a dangerous trend. For the time being the Turkish Government is managing to balance these pressures and this must be appreciated [words indistinct], for in any case the government is guided by the country's realistic interests and it does not want the Karabakh problem to upset the normalization of Armenian-Turkish ties either. But we must realize that the government is under serious pressure.

The second factor is that Turkey, being strong and having a serious and long diplomatic tradition, also instinctively feels that it is time to take advantage of that vacuum that has emerged or is emerging in Transcaucasia following Russia's abandonment of Transcaucasia. This too is natural. And at this point Turkey appears to be retreating from our principle that Armenian-Turkish relations must be established without any political preconditions. Recently, it started to present political preconditions to us both during the CSCE meeting in Prague and during the Turkish ambassador's latest visit to Armenia. This is understandable for me and I did not consider it unnatural, I simply told him that [words indistinct] that is not a realistic approach and its immediate practical result would be the undermining of Armenian-Turkish relations, which is to the benefit of neither Turkey nor Armenia. I proposed that we establish our diplomatic relations on the basis of internationally accepted norms because both Armenia and Turkey are members of the most serious organizations, such as CSCE and the United Nations, and they should establish their diplomatic relations solely based on the [word indistinct] of this prestigious organization without issuing any concrete political declarations touching upon Armenian-Turkish relations. Of course these political problems must be touched upon and examined, but at the second stage of relations, after diplomatic relations and normal economic and trade ties are established, when the time will be right for examining political questions. These issues could be touched upon during the bilateral talks. I am sure that the realistic interest of the states would force us to find compromises and a mutually acceptable approach.

Now about the Karabakh problem. I must state that the heroic resistance and national liberation struggle of Karabakh Armenians has forced the world to consider Karabakh as a separate political factor and take the Karabakh reality into account. This happened after Karabakh displayed its ability to resist and proved to the entire world that Armenians cannot be forcibly expelled from Karabakh and any such attempt is fraught with extremely dangerous consequences, not only for Azerbaijan but also for the peace of the region and the world. This concern is the reason that Karabakh has today become the center of international attention and already the Karabakh problem has become an international problem. I consider this as the most important gain from the political angle. Karabakh received the right from the international community to create its own structure in the oblast with security guarantees. (?This objective is close at hand). I will give some details.

You know that the Karabakh problem is specifically on the agenda of the CSCE, which discussed that problem in its latest meetings, and on 24 March the problem will again be discussed when a concrete mechanism for solving the Karabakh problem will be considered. This mechanism first of all envisages the presence of international observers in Karabakh and the deployment of international troops is not excluded either.

Yesterday was a day of very serious diplomatic negotiations for us. I had a 20-minute talk with President Bush. Before that Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Ovanesyan held a 20-minute talk with Secretary of State James Baker. The upshot of the talks was that the United States, which also consulted Turkey, has apparently come to the conclusion that trilateral negotiations should be held on the Karabakh problem within the framework of the CSCE. The process should start from that. Azerbaijan, Karabakh, and Armenia should take part in these negotiations. A three-point plan is envisaged and this has been agreed with Turkey. I can also say that Turkey is obliged to agree to this plan.

On the same day I had a 30-minute conversation with Turkish Foreign Minister Cetin, who also agreed that the talks will produce no result without the participation of Karabakh authorities. The three points envisage the following: First, a cease-fire. Parallel to the cease-fire, a lifting of the blockades. And third, the immediate presence of international observers in Nagorno-Karabakh.

After all this is achieved, the negotiations process should start. The first meeting will take place between the three sides: Azerbaijan, Karabakh, and Armenia. It is clear that future talks cannot continue with this composition, for there is no neutral observer to judge the implementation of agreements. Therefore, at this (?second) meeting the issue of the participation of another side in the talks will apparently be discussed. Armenia will make its proposals and Azerbaijan will naturally put forward its proposals [words indistinct].

I think that we have no other alternative but a peaceful resolution of the Karabakh problem. So far we have succeeded in keeping the Karabakh problem, the national liberation movement there, within Karabakh and we have avoided at all costs shifting the conflict to one between Armenia and Azerbaijan. This policy has brought us enormous political dividends and we must continue to do everything to keep the Karabakh problem from becoming a conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The Armenian Pannational Movement has a role to play in this, for there are forces in our society that sow panic or (?instill) war sentiment, which is the most dangerous thing for us. We must realize that war is the greatest danger for our newly born republic. We must avoid war in every way possible. Fortunately, international intervention has reached the point that it now appears as though this explosive Karabakh powder keg can be brought under control. [passage omitted]

'Emergency' Economic Measures Considered

LD2103034892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0020 GMT 21 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 21 Mar (TASS)—The Government of Armenia is drawing up measures on the introduction of an emergency situation in the republican economy. This was reported on 20 March by Armenian State Minister Grigor Areshyan. He stated at his meeting with journalists that the cabinet had been given this task at a sitting of the Armenian Council of National Security which took place recently.

According to G. Areshyan, one should not see any kind of political reason behind such a step—no restrictions of democracy or human rights are being introduced in the republic. There is talk about the drawing up and implementation of emergency measures aimed at rescuing the Armenian economy from irreversible destructive processes in connection with regular and long-term transportation blockades of Armenia by the Azerbaijani side, and also in connection with complexities of the transitional period on the way to a free market. The emergency situation program envisages a number of directions, including those in the spheres of industry, foodstuffs, finance and credit, fuel and energy, raw materials, and so on.

Azerbaijan

Cease-Fire Agreement on 'Brink of Collapse'

LD2303130292 Moscow TASS in English 1241 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow March 23 TASS—Combat helicopters attacked Armenian villages of Erkedzh and Karachinar in Nagorno-Karabakh on Sunday [21 March] afternoon wounding eight people. Another two Armenians were wounded in the town of Gadrut which was shelled by Azeri units at night, TASS learned from the Interior Department of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The ceasefire agreement mediated by Iran is on the brink of collapse, local observers say, evidently meaning that Armenian self-defence units may retaliate soon.

Mamedov, Iranian Official Discuss Mediation

NC2103203492 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet Chairman Yakub Mamedov received Mahmud Va'ezi, Iranian deputy foreign minister, on 21 March to discuss the Iranian mediation effort in Nagorno-Karabakh. The meeting was held in a businesslike atmosphere. Va'ezi informed Mamedov about his talks in Yerevan, Agdam, and Khankendy and about the Armenian position on how to resolve the conflict. Mahmud Va'ezi also called Armenian President Ter-Petrosyan's representative in the presence of Mamedov and drew his attention to the agreement signed in Tehran calling for a temporary cease-fire. Va'ezi called Ter-Petrosyan's representative after the Iranian delegation was informed that the Kazakhskiy Rayon was fired on from Armenia on the night of 20 March.

Ziyad Samed-zade, Tamerlan Karayev, and several other officials attended the meeting.

'Guerrillas' Seize CIS Anti-Aircraft Missiles

LD2003190492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1540 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 20 Mar (TASS)—A group of armed Azerbaijani guerrillas carried out an attack on an anti-aircraft missile sub-unit in the Transcaucasian military district belonging to the CIS joint armed forces at noon, on 19 March, in the region of Neymetaban settlement. They seized six launchers, six transport and loading vehicles complete with surface-to-air missiles, and also a command radio. This was reported today to an ITAR-TASS correspondent at the press center of the CIS joint armed forces. It is assumed that the stolen equipment has been taken toward Nagorno-Karabakh. It is also thought that the guerillas took six officers as hostages. The district command has adopted active measures to search for and return the officers and the weapons.

Between 1 January 1990 and 18 March 1992 in the territory of the Transcaucasus military district, there were 356 attacks carried out on servicemen, military guard details, outposts, and ammunition depots—164 in Azerbaijan and 130 in Armenia. A total of 75 servicemen died during the same period.

Armenians Said To Use CIS Military Vehicles

OW2203141692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sources in Baku say 8 Azeris have died and 7 have been wounded in the fighting with Armenia during the past 24 hours. The Azeri districts of Tauz, Kazakh, Zangelan and Fizuli were shelled from Armenian territory and from the direction of Armenian-populated villages in Nagorno-Karabakh throughout Saturday [21 March] and on Sunday [22 March] morning.

The Baku sources also report that the Armenians attacked and besieged the village of Ashagy Askipara in the Kazakh district with the support of tanks and armored vehicles belonging to the 7th CIS Army. Other villages nearby came under fire.

Fighting, Hostage Exchange in Nagorno-Karabakh

'War' in Kazakhskiy Rayon

NC2203191892 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Although it had been agreed in Tehran to put a cease-fire agreement into effect on the Azerbaijan-Armenia border and in the mountainous region in Karabakh, a war is being waged in Azerbaijan's Kazakhskiy Rayon. Armenian military units first launched a rocket attack on the towns and then crossed the border. Many of the houses in Ashagy, Yukhary Askipara, [words indistinct] are in flames. No information is yet available on the number of casualties in these towns. Initial reports said that one person was killed and six were wounded. This report was given to an ASSA-IRADA NEWS AGENCY correspondent by Seferov, (?employee) of the Kazakhskiy Rayon Militia Department.

The ASSA-IRADA NEWS AGENCY has reported from Agdam that the Agamskiy Rayon was fired on with Alazan rockets and machine guns from 1000 on 21 March to 0330 on 22 March. The news agency gave no information on casualties or the damage caused by the attacks.

Tanriberdiyev has reported from (Abaza) Rayon that the situation in the rayon is relatively calm. Leading officials of the rayon have met with their counterparts in Armenia's Gorisskiy and Kafanskiy Rayons. According to the agreement they reached, exchanges of fire must be halted.

The situation in Shusha was reported to be relatively calm on 22 March.

Nadzhibov, commander of the Fizulinskiy Rayon self-defense battalion, has informed us that, regardless of [words indistinct], armed Armenians fired on Divanallar, [word indistinct], Zhuvarly, and Arish on the night of 21 March. The Armenians stopped firing when defenders of the towns returned fire. Allakhberdy Imamberdiyev and Sabir Babayev, members of the self-defense battalion, were wounded. They are being treated in the rayon's hospital.

The situation in Dzhabrailskiy Rayon was calm on 22 March.

Artillery units fired on Zangelanskiy Rayon at about 2223 on 21 March. The exchange of fire lasted 15 minutes.

According to the information we have received from the Agdamskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Department, the situation in Agdam and the towns in the rayon was calm on 22 March.

Military Hostages Released

OW2003190892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1821 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Twelve of the 15 military servicemen taken hostage during last night's Azeri attack on an anti-aircraft unit near the city of Mingechaur, Azerbaijan, were released on Friday [20 March]. According to Lt.-Gen. Sufiyan Beppayev, deputy commander of the Transcaucasian military district, the whereabouts of the three other servicemen are unknown.

The general said the attackers had seized 2 anti-aircraft missile launchers S-75.

The district's military intelligence are looking for the hostages and the launchers, Beppayev said.

Hostage, POW, Body Exchange

LD2203170892 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1200 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] An RIA correspondent has learned from the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Interior Affairs Directorate that exchanges of prisoners, hostages, and bodies are taking place for a second day on the border between Nagorno-Karabakh's Askeranskiy rayon and Azerbaijan's Agdamskiy rayon. They are proceeding in accordance with the Iranian peace plan for the Karabakh crisis. In some instances, however, Armenians from Georgia who had been seized on the Tbilisi-Moscow train, and also others who for some reason had stayed in Baku and Sumgait after the killings there, have been offered for exchange instead of Armenians from Karabakh. According to one Nagorno-Karabakh self-defense force leader, all the Armenian hostages taken by Azerbaijanis off the Tbilisi train already have been exchanged and sent on to Georgia. Exchanging Armenians seized in Baku and Sumgait is more difficult because the despairing relatives of Karabakh hostages are demanding the return, first and foremost, of their own people.

Armenian T-72 Tank Destroyed

LD2203205692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Report over video by V. Nakhysh—from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] This morning the Armenian Army started shelling the only road by which Shusha is supplied with food. At 0700 this morning they knocked out a bus with passengers and a UAZ car. A battle broke out, as a result of which Azeri artillerymen knocked out a T-72 tank and an IFV-2 [infantry fighting vehicle] of the Armenian Army. At that the fire was halted and the truce reigned once more on the territory of Karabakh.

The press service of the Ministry of Defense reports that today the Armenian side subjected the Kazakh and Tauz border rayons of Azerbaijan, which do not form part of Karabakh, to massive artillery fire.

Government Establishes Committee for Defense

NC2003191892 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] The Azerbaijani law on the establishment of the Azerbaijan State Committee for Defense is as follows:

1. The Azerbaijan State Committee for Defense will be established to provide for the maintenance of Azerbaijani sovereignty, state security, and territorial integrity.

2. The Azerbaijan State Committee for Defense will be comprised of the chairman of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet, the prime minister, the minister of defense, the minister of national security, the minister of internal affairs, the armed forces' commander-in-chief, the head of the Baku City Executive Authority, and four representatives proposed by the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet's National Council.

3. The Azerbaijan State Committee for Defense will adopt its decisions on the basis of a simple majority vote.

4. The decisions adopted by the Azerbaijan State Committee for Defense will be put into effect in Azerbaijan without any failure.

5. The Azerbaijan State Committee for Defense will draw up the state policy on the maintenance of Azerbaijan's defense and security and supervise the government's implementation of this policy.

6. The work of the Azerbaijan State Committee for Defense will be organized on the basis of the rules and regulations to be approved by the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet after this law (?is enacted and the committee is established).

7. This law will be put into effect immediately after its enactment.

[Signed] Yakub Mamedov, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet

[Issued] Baku City, 12 [as heard] March 1992

Georgia

Gamsakhurdists Free Hostages, Seek New Talks

OW2003190392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1821 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday [20 March], the leaders of pro-Gamsakhurdia forces in the west Georgian city of Zugdidi demanded a new round of talks with the Georgian authorities—this time with State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze himself.

They also insist the agenda should include the issue of Zviad Gamsakhurdia's restoration as the Republic's lawful president.

According to the State Council's press service, all the national guards taken hostage in Zugdidi were released on Friday, including the national guard commander Georgiy Karkarashvili and deputy defense minister Besik Kutateladze.

Reportedly Plan New Offensive

LD2103120192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 21 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The INTERFAX agency has been informed by reliable sources in Tbilisi that expelled Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia is at the present time in The Hague, at the headquarters of the International Court.

The same sources report that an armed offensive by Gamskhurdia supporters in western Georgia is planned for the end of March.

Gamsakhurdia himself has sent a telegram to Eduard Shevardnadze demanding that the Konstantin Gamsakhurdia house museum [K. Gamsakhurdia: Georgian writer, father of Zviad], which burned down on 14 March, not be rebuilt. I categorically demand that the house not be touched, that this building should stand in Tbilisi as a monument to vandalism and barbarianism, the telegram says.

Gamsakhurdia Loyalist Leader Comments on Issues

MK2003140592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Mar 92 p 3

[Interview with Merab Kiknadze, acting chairman of the Georgian Supreme Council elected at the extraordinary session of the Georgian parliament in Groznyy, by Natalya Pachegina and Igor Zotov; place and date not given: "'The President Should Not Have Played the Liberal,' Merab Kiknadze, Acting Chairman of the Georgian Supreme Council Elected at the Extraordinary Session of the Georgian Parliament in Groznyy, Believes"]

[Text] [NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] You continue to regard the parliament that you head as the legitimate power in the Republic of Georgia. What grounds do you have for thinking this?

[Kiknadze] First and foremost, the absolute support of the Georgian population. And second: We can consider ourselves the legitimate authority from the juridical point of view, since nobody is entitled to dissolve parliament—only the Georgian president has these powers conferred on him.

The situation in Georgia today is a legal free-for-all. There are two forces on which the current authorities are relying: former apparatchiks and purely criminal elements. It is known that the new authorities have granted an amnesty to 5,000 criminals—this lot has swelled the ranks of the unlawful power's defenders. "Mkhedrioni" is made up of the same sort of people and Ioseliani has the reputation of a "kingpin of crime" in the republic.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] The State Council has announced parliamentary elections. Will you participate in them?

[Kiknadze] First, there are no official acts, and the State Council is basically a modified Military Council. Both Shevardnadze and all the rest are a repellent lot. At our extraordinary session we adopted a special resolution on the invalidity of all the current Georgian authorities' acts.

Rumors have reached us that the new authorities are intending to hold so-called indirect elections, justifying this step by saying, for example, that Shengelaya better understands the needs of the Georgian people than, say, a lathe operator or a worker. We will not take part in the elections they are planning. The only road that we can take to stabilize the situation is to restore the lawful power structures, and only when this has been done will we be ready both for elections and a referendum.

Parliament is the legitimate organ, and in this respect the session that was held in Groznyy is very important. It demonstrated that parliament is continuing to function. It is hard to call our power a dictatorship, since a parliament can never act as a dictator.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] Aren't you afraid that posterity will blame you for splitting Georgia and the Georgian people?

[Kiknadze] It is these people who initiated the split. If the coup had not been led from outside, they would never have succeeded. We know perfectly well—there is documentary and film evidence to prove it—that the leadership of the Transcaucasus Military District provided assistance. These were the people who supplied the putschists with weapons, and it was Russia that gave the putschists hefty financial support, from Shevardnadze among others. And now the notorious 366th regiment has been transferred from Karabakh to Tbilisi, and the new authorities have immediately abolished the status of occupation army regarding the CIS troops.

If they succeed in gaining a victory over us now, this will be the third Russian annexation of Georgia in the last 200 years. We insist that this interference from outside be stopped.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] You left Government House "so that no Georgian blood would be shed." But Georgian blood is being shed in Zugdidi, hostages have been taken...

[Kiknadze] I would not call them hostages. They are prisoners, they have been captured.

And we did not just leave Government House because we did not want any more casualties; we also left it because the city was being destroyed. And what is happening in Zugdidi is a revolt against looting. Everyone is perfectly well aware that they infiltrated Zugdidi behind a shield of women and children, and looting began in the city almost immediately. We know that they stole 300 new motor vehicles. At the same time the Abkhazia authorities adopted a position of complete neutrality, although this is also affects them. Our battalions from Zugdidi and Gali are fighting there, these are official structures defending the president. Since he exists, his official defenders exist as well.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] Has the position of the Georgian president and Supreme Council in relation to South Ossetia altered in any way?

[Kiknadze] At the extraordinary session in Groznyy we adopted a resolution on the illegality of the referendum held 19 January in South Ossetia. Once again, we assessed this as gross Russian interference in the affairs of the Republic of Georgia. We believe that South Ossetia is a state formation invented by the Bolsheviks in 1922. The only thing they can count on is national and cultural autonomy; after all, the Ossetians are a typical ethnic minority for Georgia. They can be granted national autonomy under the norms of international law. To claim that the Russian Supreme Soviet knew nothing about this referendum is, in my view, just a pose.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] Are you censuring yourself and your leadership for any mistakes you may have made?

[Kiknadze] If some people in our country are currently condemning the Georgian president, it is only because he was excessively liberal. Perhaps he really should have acted more harshly.

Situation in Senaki 'Stable'; No Rallies

AU2203160892 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0300 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Yesterday, Avtandil (?Beselia), Senaki's militia chief, informed us by telephone that the political situation in Senaki is now stable. There have been no rallies in support of the former president for almost a week.

A general public meeting involving the active participation of the heads of enterprises, establishments, and social organizations was held recently. An absolute majority expressed the opinion that a normal situation has to be restored. On Monday [23 March], studies will resume in secondary schools, and enterprises and establishments will begin work.

State Council Approves 10,000-Strong Army

AU2303104092 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0300 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] The State Council has approved the proposal of the republic's Ministry of Defense on the creation of armed forces. Specifically, it will probably be announced that, as early as in April and May of this year, persons between 18 and 25 will be called up for compulsory military service. It is planned that the Army will number no less than 10,000 soldiers.

A final decision on the concept of the creation of armed forces will be discussed at one of the forthcoming sessions of the State Council.

Western Area 'Gradually Starting To Stabilize'

AU2303102792 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0300 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] The political situation in the Samegrelo region is gradually starting to stabilize. Today, school studies have resumed. The towns and villages are being better supplied with essential products. The power supply has improved.

Rallies involving small numbers of people have again been taking place in Poti but they have no resulted in any complications. Transport, the bread combine, and all vitally important installations are functioning. There has been a relative improvement in the supply of power to the town.

Reportage on Situation in South Ossetia

Agreement Reached on Talks

LD2103173792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] An agreement in principle on tripartite talks on the problems of South Ossetia was reached yesterday between officials from the Republic of Georgia and North Ossetia, the FAKT agency reports, referring to Akhsarbek Galazov, chairman of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet. The meeting will take place in Vladikavkaz.

More Troops Entering

OW2103072292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1436 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Georgian State Council's commission on settling the Georgian-Ossetian conflict Nodar Natadze has stated that the command of the former Soviet Union's interior troops introduced additional units and heavy weapons in South Ossetia. Natadze's statement made public March 20 says this is a violation of an agreement previously reached with the Georgian government. The statement points out that "such actions may lead to further aggravation of the conflict". Natadze spoke in favor of an immediate withdrawal of interior troops from the region.

Meanwhile, speaking to reporters, commander of an interior unit stationed in South Ossetia Vladimir Korchagin denied the fact of additional troops' introduction in the region.

He opposes an immediate withdrawal of interior troops from South Ossetia since, in his words, afterwards "a real massacre may start".

Region 'Peaceful' 21-22 Mar

AU2303112992 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0900 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] This morning, Gori's militia department [words indistinct] informed us that it was peaceful in Samachablo [South Ossetia] on Saturday [21 March] and Sunday. There were no excesses of any kind.

[Word indistinct] department and the leaders of Gori rayon [words indistinct] establish contacts with units of the interior troops. Today, the (?commanders) of the internal troops will meet Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Nodar Natadze, chairman of the Georgian Popular Front, in Gori. The aim of this meeting is to regulate the problem [words indistinct] for the Georgian population in Samachablo.

IMF Finds Economic Difficulties

OW2203161792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1457 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] After a delegation of the International Monetary Fund [IMF] made a fact-finding tour of Georgia, it concluded that the republic's economy and finance are in a deplorable state and needing a rehabilitation program which the IMF is ready to draft together with the Georgian leadership.

A regular session of the International Monetary Fund in Washington on April 10 is expected to discuss IMF membership for Georgia.

Shevardnadze Welcomes Iranian Mediation Efforts

LD2003205592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] According to the RIA agency, Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian State Council, has declared his support for the plan for settling the Karabakh conflict put forward by Iran. RIA was told this at the press service of the Georgian permanent mission in Moscow. Shevardnadze has sent Iranian Foreign Minister Ali 'Akbar Velayati a message to this effect, in which he also expressed a willingness to develop friendly relations. I remind you that the Iranian peace initiative on Nagorno-Karabakh provides for the formation of a multinational peacekeeping force and its dipatch to the area of conflict.

Comments on Treaty With Russia

LD2003152192 Moscow TASS in English 1456 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Georg Mikhailin]

[Text] Paris March 20 TASS—"At present it is more important for Georgia to sign a treaty with Russia than to join the Commonwealth of Independent States," chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze said in an interview, published today by the newspaper "LIBERATION".

Shevardnadze called for the speediest conclusion of such a bilateral treaty and also for an agreed and mutually painless withdrawal of CIS troops from South Ossetia. "Georgia's accession to the CIS will not be positive. The Georgian people will not support such a step," Shevardnadze noted. He believes it is necessary to arrange with Western support a meeting of leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia to normalise the situation in the Caucasus, which is frought with a Lebanese-type war.

"The situation within Georgia is extremely difficult: The economy is ruined and the civil war is continuing," Shevardnadze stated. "Our primary task is to avoid hunger. I don't know how we shall be able to survive the next winter. It will be terrible, indeed, if we fail to find additional resources. We don't even have a budget for this year."

Shevardnadze called for urgent western aid to Georgia. "Today the country needs political and socio-economic stabilisation. The State Council is working on this problem. It has decided to hold presidential elections not later than this autumn," he noted.

Turning to the fate of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, Shevardnadze said that the Georgian Government and prosecutor's office were now investigating the ex-president's doings. The investigation's objectivity will be checked by international experts and only then a verdict on Gamsakhurdia will be passed. "Nobody will touch him if he is innocent," Shevardnadze said.

Chairman's Meeting With Intelligentsia Viewed

MK2003135592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Mar 92 p 3

[Mikhail Tavkhelidze report under the "Georgia" rubric: "'God Forbid That the Eduard Shevardnadze Who Has Returned to Us Is the Same Man Who Left Us,' a Professor at Tbilisi State University Said at a Meeting Between the University Community and Shevardnadze"]

[Text] "For Georgia, the sun rises in the north," Shevardnadze said in 1983, campaigning for even greater friendship between Georgia and Russia within the USSR framework. Nowadays Shevardnadze does not talk about the sun rising in the north, because circumstances have changed and he himself has changed. However, mistrust of Shevardnadze among a certain section of Georgian society still remains. Particularly among former dissidents and members of the intelligentsia who played a major role in establishing the national liberation movement. They cannot completely believe that Shevardnadze could have changed as quickly as the events going on around him.

The chairman of the Georgian State Council devoted two whole days to dispelling this mistrust. He met (as NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA has already reported) with the National Congress, that is, with former dissidents, and then with professors, teachers, and students at Tbilisi State University, that is, the intelligentsia. It cannot be said that Shevardnadze had an easy time at these meetings. He had to listen to everything they thought about him and his career. And these thoughts were not always pleasant for him to listen to. However, Eduard Amvrosiyevich listened attentively to all the remarks addressed to him and seemed to take no offense.

Answering both the former and the latter audience, he attempted to convince those attending that he does not want to see any special relations between Georgia and Russia, and that there is no return to dictatorship by the nomenklatura. He also described the state of the Georgian economy in extremely somber tones. "One fine day we will wake up and find we are at the bottom of the abyss," he said during his meeting with the National Congress.

It cannot be said that his listeners began to trust Eduard Shevardnadze unquestioningly as a result of these meetings. It would be more exact to say that a kind of "armed" neutrality has been established between him on the one hand and the intelligentsia on the other. Shevardnadze's leading position was acknowledged, however. Both the National Congress and the intelligentsia have adopted a temporizing stance. For the time being you might think that the problem of mistrust of Shevardnadze among the most influential sections of society has been settled. However, there is one other no less complex problem that needs to be resolved very soon. This is the problem of cadres. The professional world-class politician Shevardnadze finds himself practically in a vacuum in Georgia; he has no professionals around him. At the university meeting he said that the republic currently lacks the kind of cadres who know how to administer an independent state that is a full member of the world community. Shevardnadze intends to resolve this problem by enlisting former Communist Party figures in state administration. At the university meeting he came right out and said that he does not differentiate between people on the basis of their political coloring. According to him, their professionalism is the main thing.

Cabinet Discusses Ways To Demonopolize Economy

LD2003163192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1230 GMT 20 Mar 92

[From the "Business News" section]

[Text] Tbilisi—On March 19, the Cabinet of Ministers of Georgia discussed measures to de-monopolize economic activities in the republic. A related resolution notes that some economic sectors should undergo restructuring while new economic entities—concerns, associations, groups, etc.—should be preserved as management bodies and monopolistic structures in industries and the distribution system. In connection with the fact, the Cabinet of Ministers authorized ministries, state committees, agencies and local bodies of management to adopt, within a week, decisions on expediency of concerns, association and groups established on the basis of state enterprises, and consider the issue of their demonopolization or dissolution taking into account requirements on decentralization of national economy, creation of a competitive environment and demonopolization of subjects of economic activity as well as to prohibit artificial limitation of enterprises' rights to freely split from associations of various types. Every project of creation of similar associations should be coordinated with and given an anti-monopoly expertise by the economy ministry of the Republic of Georgia.

Enterprises and organizations located in the territory of the Republic of Georgia (including retail trade and service establishments) which are not legal entities under the legislation in force, are granted the right to be registered as legal entities following a decision of their worker collectives, and voluntarily enter concerns, associations and other economic groups.